

MEGUMI MORINO

1

A manga-style illustration of a young man with short, layered pink hair and large, expressive eyes with a rainbow-colored iris. He is wearing a white collared shirt and is gently holding a young woman with long, straight black hair. The woman has her eyes closed and a peaceful expression. They are surrounded by lush green leaves and a single red rose in the lower right corner. The overall style is soft and romantic.

*Wake Up,
Sleeping
Beauty*

Wake Up, Sleeping Beauty



MEGUMI
MORINO



CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

I LIKE YOU

003

CHAPTER 2

WHO IS IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE?

059

CHAPTER 3

PRELUDE

103

CHAPTER 4

SCALES

141

I ASKED YOU WHO YOU WERE.



YOU
RESPONDED,
"AND WHO
ARE YOU"?



THE
ANSWER
TO THAT
QUESTION
IS SOME-
THING...



WHO AM I?



...I
HAVE NOT
KNOWN...



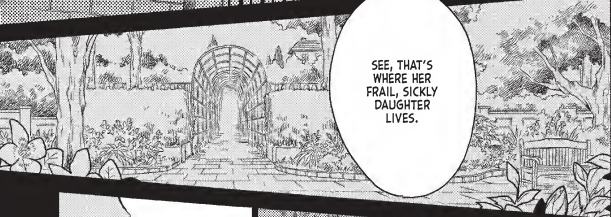
...FOR
A LONG,
LONG
TIME.

*Wake Up,
Sleeping
Beauty*



YOU KNOW
THE LITTLE
OUTBUILDING
WAY IN THE
BACK OF THE
MANSION'S
GIGANTIC
GARDEN?

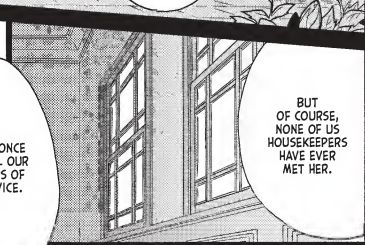
THE LADY
OF THE HOUSE
TOLD US ALL
TO STAY AWAY
FROM IT,
RIGHT?



SEE, THAT'S
WHERE HER
FRAIL, SICKLY
DAUGHTER
LIVES.



NOT ONCE
IN ALL OUR
YEARS OF
SERVICE.



BUT
OF COURSE,
NONE OF US
HOUSEKEEPERS
HAVE EVER
MET HER.



IN
OTHER
WORDS,



MAYBE...
NO ONE
LIVES THERE
ANYMORE.

SOMETIMES
I WONDER...
IF MAYBE
OKU-SAMA* IS
LYING TO US.

*A RESPECTFUL WAY OF ADDRESSING THE LADY OF THE HOUSE.

THE YOUNG
HEIRESS IS
NO LONGER
WITH US.



OH,
COME ON.
I'M JUST
BORROWING
THE IDEA FOR
MY PREMISE,
THAT'S ALL!

UGH, YOU
SCARED ME,
KUMADA-SAN.
AND YOU CAN'T
WRITE ABOUT
YOUR EMPLOYER—
THAT'S
INAPPROPRIATE!

She'll
never
know.

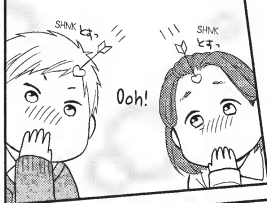
COUGH
COUGH



GOOD
STORY,
HUH?

DO YOU THINK
I SHOULD USE IT
FOR THE TWIST IN
MY NEXT NOVEL
SUBMISSION?





*ABOUT 5'4"

I MEAN...
IT'S NOT LIKE
I'M SCARED
OR ANYTHING...
'CAUSE I'M
NOT!

Occult Fan
Hobby: Writing
horror novels

I NEVER KNOW
HOW MUCH OF
KUMADA-SAN'S
STORIES I
SHOULD TAKE
SERIOUSLY.

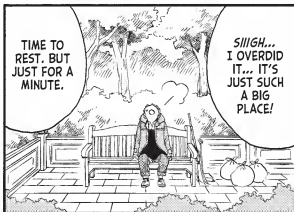
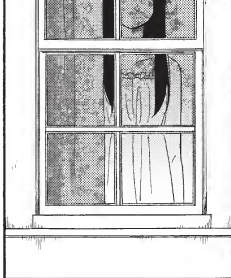
TAKE
THAT,
DAD! I'M
WINNING
THIS BET!

IT LOOKS
LIKE I'M
REALLY
HITTING IT
OFF WITH MY
COWORKERS.

BUT
ANY-
WAY...

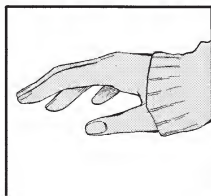
Okay...

THIS YARD
IS JUST AS
DAUNTING
AS EVER.

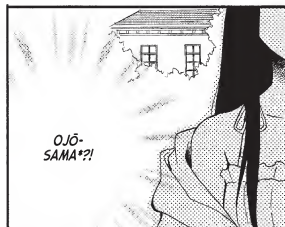




MORE...



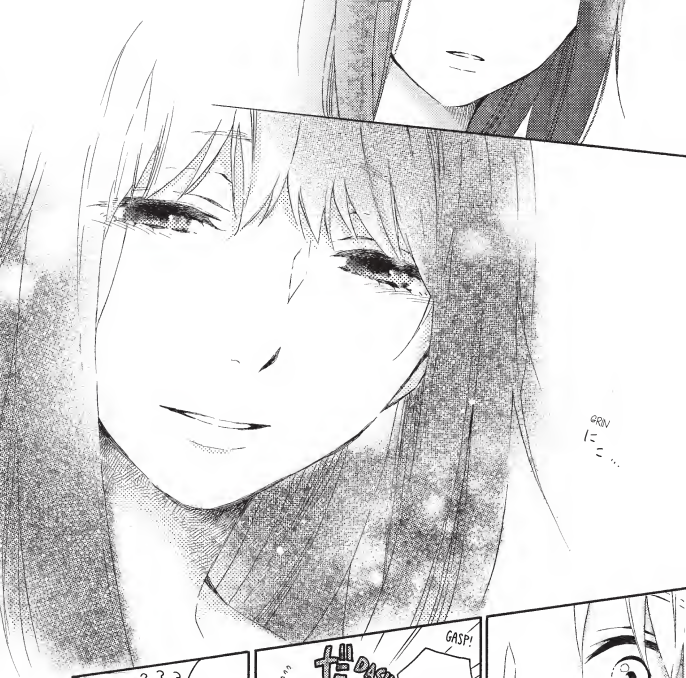




WH-
WHO...?

*A RESPECTFUL WAY TO ADDRESS THE YOUNG LADY OF THE HOUSE.





GRIN
に...



WH-WHY
WAS SHE
SMILING?



...



UH!
WELL!
EXCUSE!
ME!!!

GASP!

DASH

BOM

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

P-

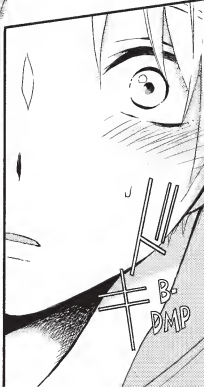
P-

P-

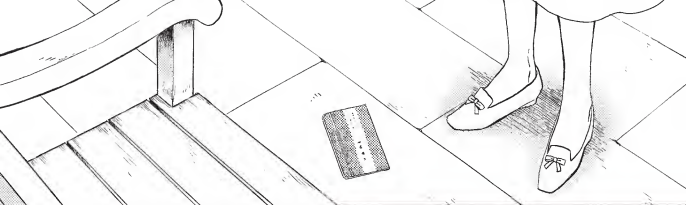
P-

P-

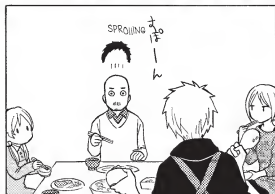
P-



B-
DMP



I WANT
MORE
MONEY.



AND NOW OUR
FATHER-SON
BATTLE HAS
WAGED ON FOR
THREE MONTHS.

BITE ME!
DO YOU
KNOW OUR
FAMILY'S
ENGEL
COEFFICIENT?!
YOU THINK I
CAN AFFORD
COLLEGE, YOU
STUPID OLD
MAN?!

SCRUNCH

AND YOU
THINK I'D LET
YOU?! THAT'S
BIG TALK
COMING FROM
A SPOILED
SNOWFLAKE
WHO'S NEVER
EVEN WORKED
A PART-TIME
JOB!!

THAT WAS
THE STATEMENT
THAT STARTED
IT ALL. IT WAS
THE AUTUMN
OF MY SECOND
YEAR OF HIGH
SCHOOL.



I WOULD WORK
FOR MY DAD'S
HOUSEKEEPING
AGENCY WITHOUT
SLACKING OFF
AND UNTIL I
GRADUATED HIGH
SCHOOL.

WHEN THE NEW
YEAR STARTED,
I FINALLY
DRAGGED A
COMPROMISE
OUT OF HIM.



...THAT IT
WOULD BE
A PIECE OF
CAKE.

...id
Meteor
Shower,
there
will be a
never-
before-
seen
...

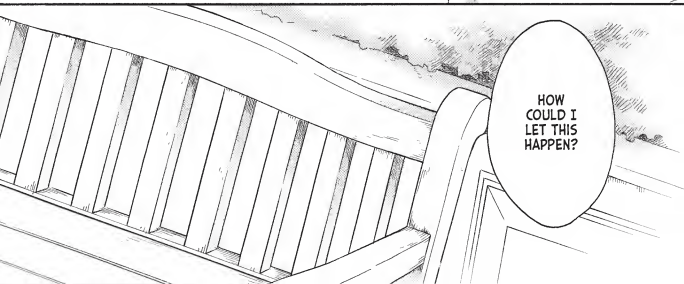
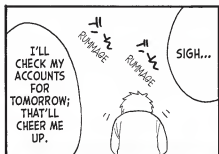
I WAS
SURE...

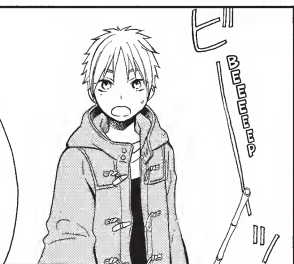
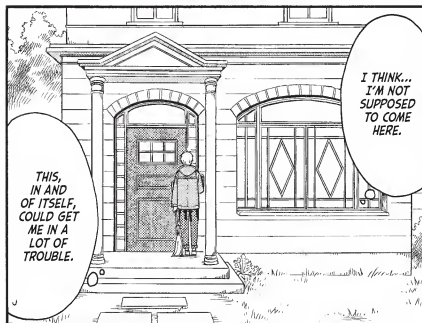
...It
will peak
between
2:00 AM
and dawn
on the
morning
of...



YOU SAY
YOU CAN
JOIN THE
WORK-
FORCE?

THEN
PROVE
IT!







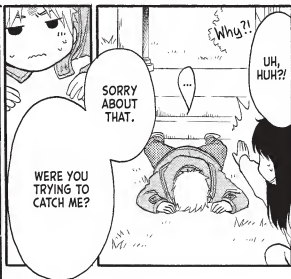
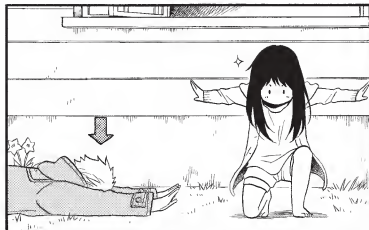
She's
at the
window?!

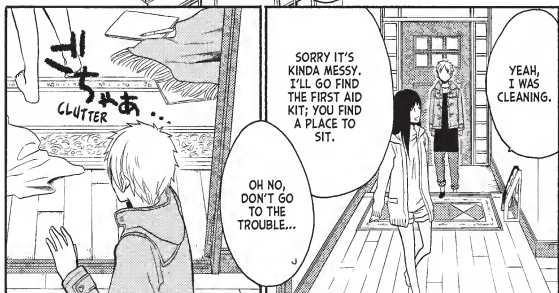


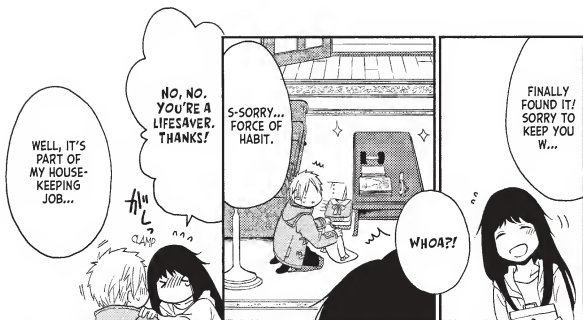
AAAAHH!
IT'S
YOU!

FROM THE
OTHER DAY!
PERFECT!
I'VE BEEN
WANTING
TO SEE—















OKAY.



JUST FOR THAT? WOW, YOU'RE SO SERIOUS.

Hmm.



I DON'T WANT MY DAD...
I MEAN, MY BOSS, TO FIND OUT.



HUH...?



FIRST, I WANT YOU TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF.



IN EXCHANGE,

WILL YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME?



TETSU.



DON'T
WORRY,
MOMMY'S
HERE.
I'LL KEEP
YOU SAFE,
TETSU.

COME ON,
LET'S GO.

THERE
YOU
ARE.

THIS
HAUNTED
HOUSE
MUST
HAVE
SCARED
YOU.

THEN YOU
COME
HELP ME,
OKAY?

BUT
SOME-
DAY,
WHEN
YOU
GROW
UP,



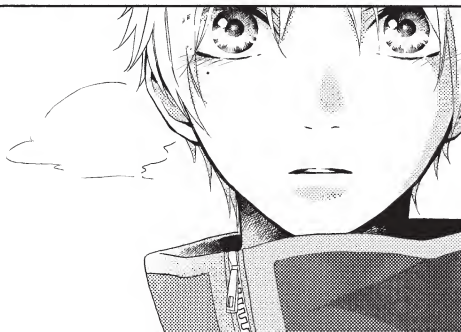
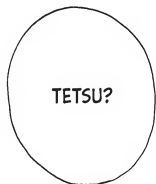
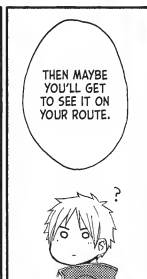
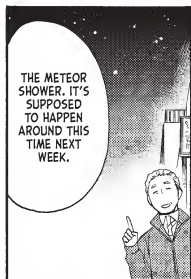
...I GUESS
SHE REALLY
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS.

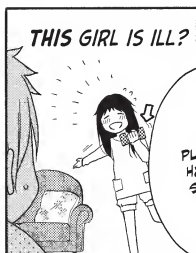




SIGN: NEWSPAPER

No, stop it. You don't have time to worry about that stuff!





THIS GIRL IS ILL?

OH,
PLEASE,
HAVE A
SEAT!

WOW,
YOU REALLY
CAME!



SO I
MAY HAVE
SNEAKED
OUT, BUT I'M
NOT GOING
TO PLAY
AROUND.

AND SINCE I'M
PAID TO BE HERE,
IT'S MY POLICY TO
MAKE SURE THAT
MY MONEY IS
WELL DESERVED.



...I TOLD THEM
I'D BE CLEANING
THE YARD AND
SNEAKED OUT.
I NEED TO GO
BACK IN ABOUT
15 MINUTES.



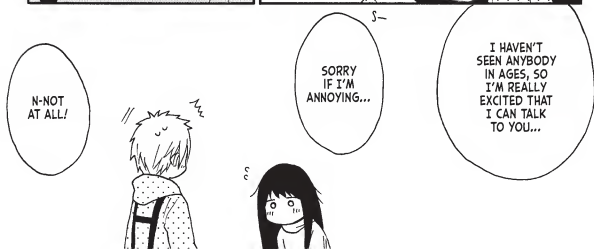
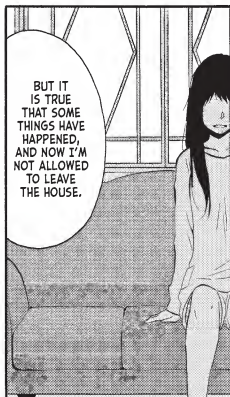
MAYBE
IT'LL BE FUN
TO CLEAN
TOGETHER.

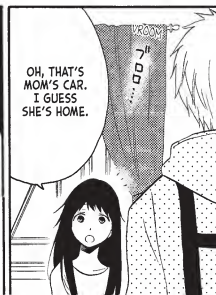
OKAY!



YOU WERE
ABOUT TO
SAY FILTHY,
WEREN'T
YOU?

AS LONG AS
I'M HERE, I
WILL NOT LET
THIS ROOM
REMAIN FILTHY...
CLUTTERED!!







TETSU-KUN.

ARE YOU
GETTING
THE HANG
OF THINGS
HERE?



WELCOME
HOME,
OKU-SAMA.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
WORK TODAY,
KUMADA-SAN.



THEY
LIVE...

...SO
CLOSE
TO EACH
OTHER.



...YES,
MA'AM.



DO
THINGS
LIKE
THIS...



...AND SHE
SEEMS LIKE
SUCH A NICE
GIRL.





METEOR
SHOWER?



...REALLY
HAPPEN?



WHAT AM
I DOING,
TAKING
PITY ON
HER LIKE
THIS?

I ALREADY
HAVE MY
HANDS FULL
TAKING CARE
OF MYSELF.

I COULD
COME GET
YOU THAT
NIGHT.

UM,
ACTUALLY...
THERE'S A
PARK NEAR
HERE WITH A
GOOD VIEW.



COOL!

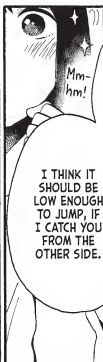
IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE THE
MOST ACTIVE
THE DAY AFTER
TOMORROW,
AT ABOUT
TWO IN THE
MORNING.

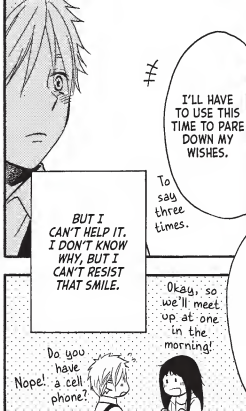


THAT
SOUNDS
NICE. I'VE
NEVER SEEN
ONE OF
THOSE.

GULP
!!

SO WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
GO WATCH IT
WITH ME?





++

I'LL HAVE TO USE THIS TIME TO PARE DOWN MY WISHES.

To say three times.

BUT I CAN'T HELP IT. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I CAN'T RESIST THAT SMILE.

Do you have a cell phone?
Nope!

Okay, so we'll meet up at one in the morning!

I MIGHT NOT EVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS.

YUP!

IT REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE.

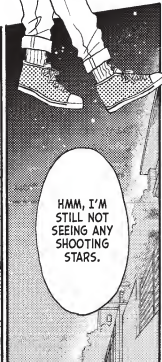
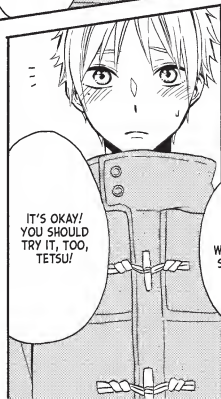


UH-HUH!
I TOTALLY CAN. HERE GOES!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT?



SHIZU-SAN,
CAREFUL...
CAREFUL...!





DOESN'T IT
MAKE YOU FEEL
LIKE A KING?

WALKING
IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE STREET
WHEN NO ONE'S
AROUND.



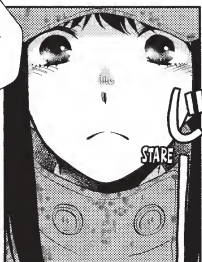
SHE HAS A
WHOLE CLOSET
OF STYLISH
CLOTHES, BUT
I'VE NEVER SEEN
HER WEAR ANY.

SHE LIKES
CLEANING,
BUT HER
ROOM IS
A MESS.

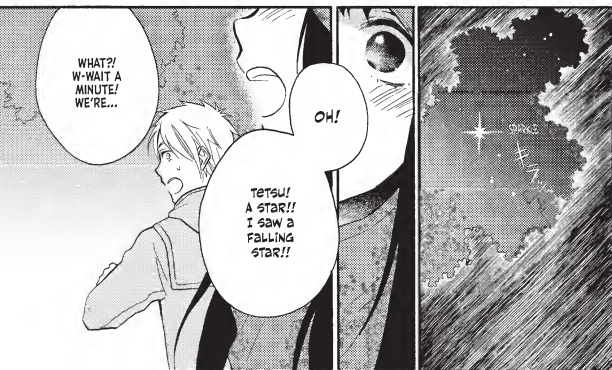
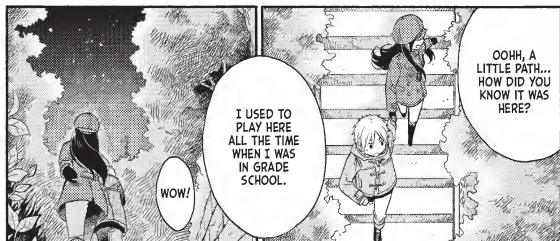
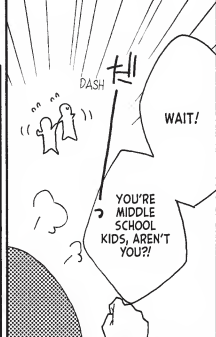


...SHE'S
SUCH A
MYSTERY.
I CAN'T
FIGURE
HER OUT.











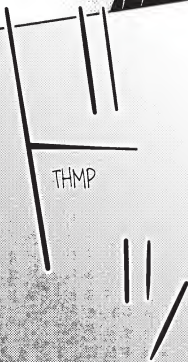
WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE...



TIMES
...



WITH SO
MANY, MAYBE
WE CAN SAY
OUR WISHES
THREE...



THMP

IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
SHE'S HAPPY
OR SAD.
THAT'S NOT THE
PROBLEM.

I WAS
EXPECTING
HER TO
SMILE.

WHAT
DO I
DO?

THAT'S
WHY I
BROUGHT
HER HERE.

I WANTED
TO SEE
THAT LOOK
ON HER
FACE.



...?
WHY?

THOSE
ARE...
TEARS
OF JOY,
RIGHT?
NO.



...WAIT.
DOES THAT
MEAN I...

...ile.

Smile.

Smile.

I LIKE
YOU
WHEN YOU
SMILE!

ギュ
SMOOSIE

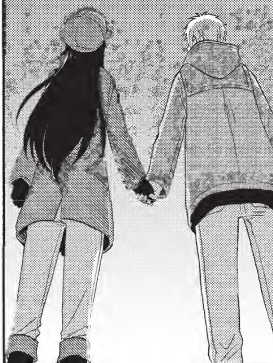
I...



...DAMMIT.



UH.









NGH!

BLINK



THAT'S
NOT WHAT I
MEANT! YOU
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
WRONG.

OH, NO,
I'M
SORRY...

I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WOULD TURN
OUT THIS WAY.
THIS IS
PARTIALLY
MY FAULT.
I, UH...

...



COME
SEE ME!



...AND
THEN...IF
YOU CAN
STILL SAY
THAT...



ON
YOUR NEXT
WORKDAY...
PROMISE
ME!

COME
SEE ME.



THEN...
I'LL GIVE
YOU A
STRAIGHT
ANSWER.



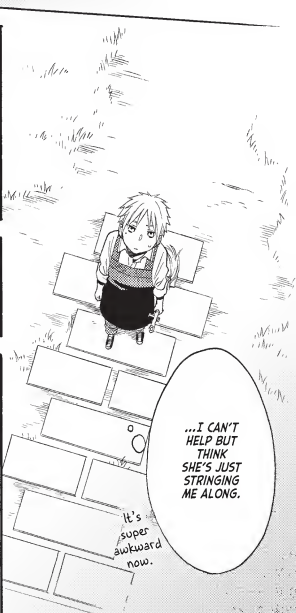
STILL, SHE
WAS ACTING
STRANGE.

I
WONDER
WHAT
THAT WAS
ABOUT...



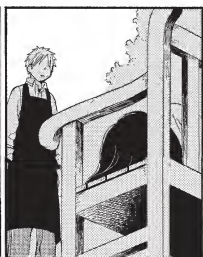
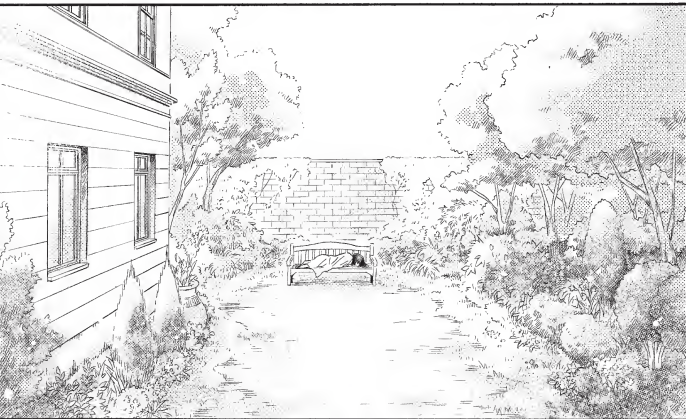
SHIZU-
SAN?

...
HUSH



...I CAN'T
HELP BUT
THINK
SHE'S JUST
STRINGING
ME ALONG.

It's
super
awkward
now.





...SHIZU-
SAN.

SHIZU-
SAN.

PLEASE
WAKE UP.

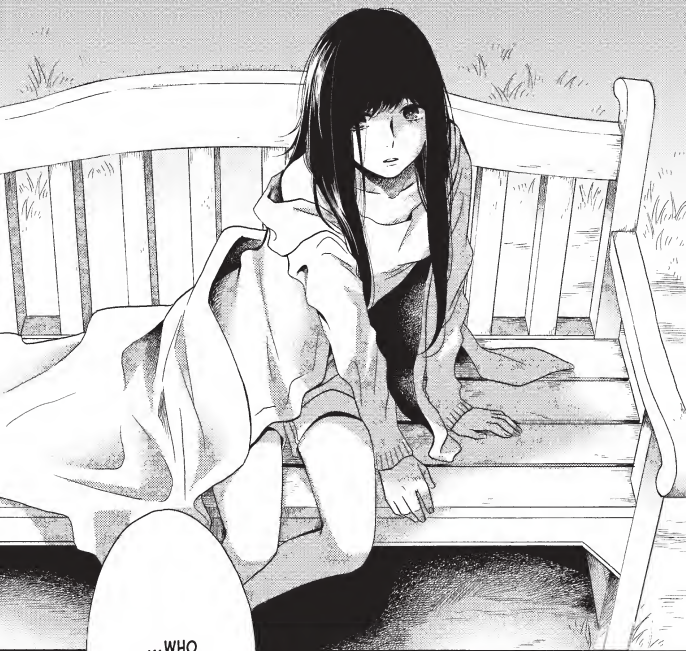
YOU'LL
CATCH A COLD,
SLEEPING
OUT HERE.

SHUDDER

SHI....

...
U°
<
Twitch





...WHO
ARE YOU?



CHAPTER 2

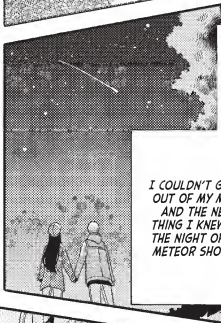
WHO IS IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE?



I'M PRETTY
SURE IT WAS
THAT VERY
FIRST SMILE
THAT GOT ME.

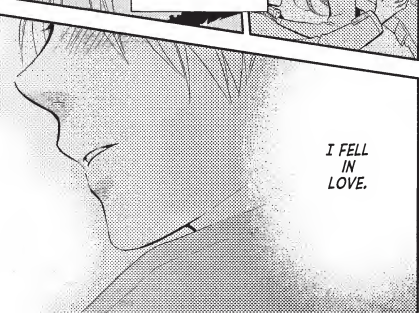


A SMILE LIKE
THE SUN, WITH
A LONELINESS
HIDING BENEATH
THE SURFACE.



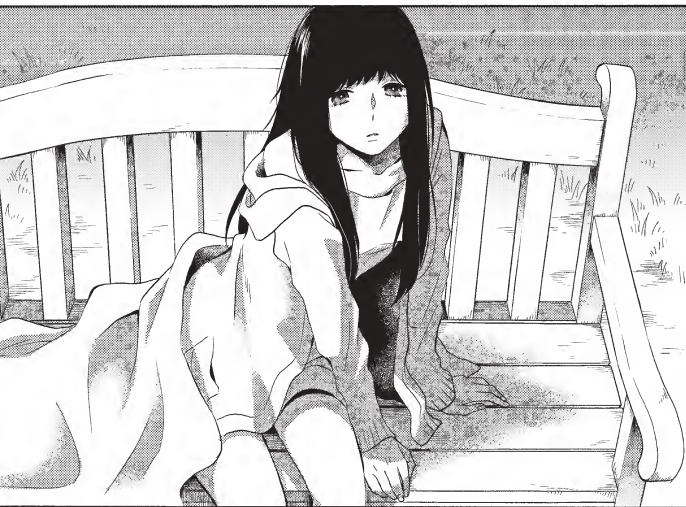
I COULDN'T GET IT
OUT OF MY MIND,
AND THE NEXT
THING I KNEW, ON
THE NIGHT OF THE
METEOR SHOWER,

JUST
WHO
WAS
THAT
GIRL I
FELL
FOR?

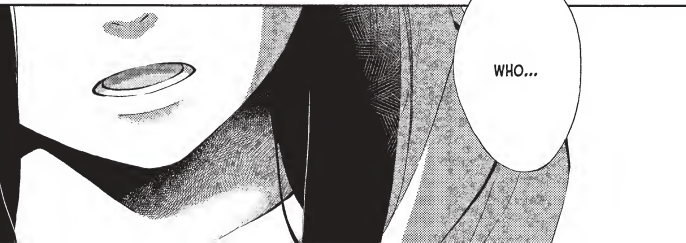


I FELL
IN
LOVE.

OR...



...SO I THOUGHT.



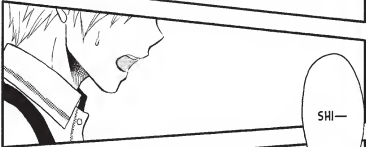
WHO...



WHAT IN
THE...?



...WHO
ARE YOU?



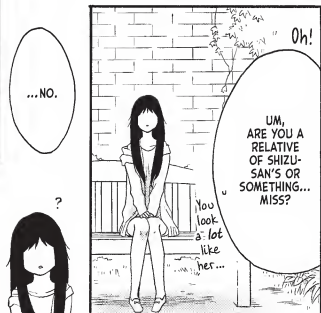
SHI—



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?
YOU'RE
JOKING,
RIGHT?

SHIZU-SAN,
WHAT...









MAYBE
MY FEELINGS
WERE A
BURDEN TO
HER...BUT DID
SHE REALLY
HAVE TO DO
THAT?!

WHAT
THE HELL?
WHAT
IS SHE
TALKING
ABOUT?



...YES,
MA'AM.

COULD I
ASK YOU
TO HELP ME
WITH THE
COOKING?

TETSU-KUN!
PERFECT
TIMING.

4
April

mon tue wed

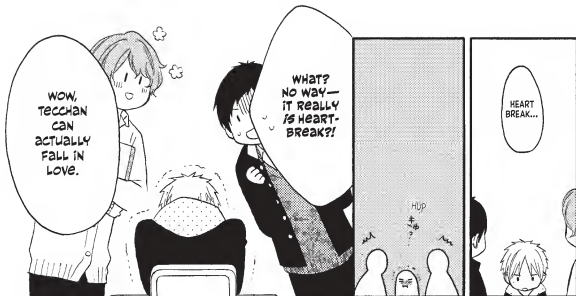
29 30 31

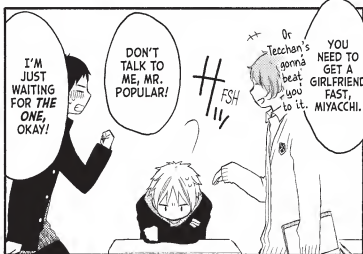
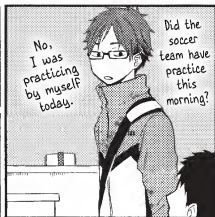
5 6 7

12 13 14

THIS...IS
THE WORST
WAY FOR IT
TO END.









I'M...NOT
EXACTLY
"SICK."
PHYSICALLY,
I'M
HEALTHY.

DOUBLE
PERSONALI-
TIES...

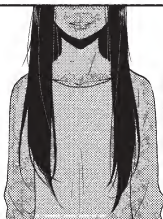


That's
life.

SO YOU'RE
LUCKY YOU
FOUND OUT
EARLY ON!

SOME GIRLS
ARE LIKE THAT.
SHE ACTS ALL
CUTE BEFORE YOU
START DATING, BUT
AS SOON AS SHE'S
YOUR GIRLFRIEND,
SHE TOTALLY LETS
HERSELF GO.

...FOR A LOT
OF REASONS,
I'M NOT
ALLOWED TO
LEAVE THE
HOUSE.

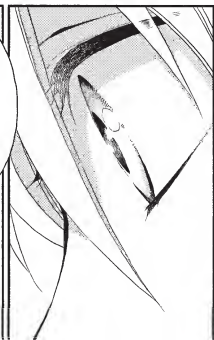


BUT
IT IS
TRUE...



LET'S BLOW
OFF STEAM AND
HAVE SOME FUN
AFTER SCHOOL
TODAY!

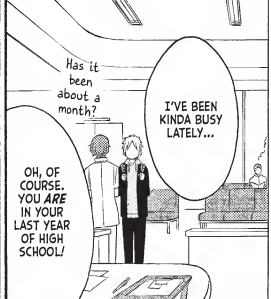
WELL, IF
THAT'S THE
CASE...



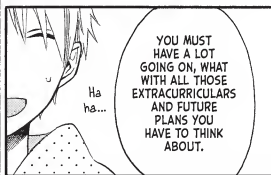




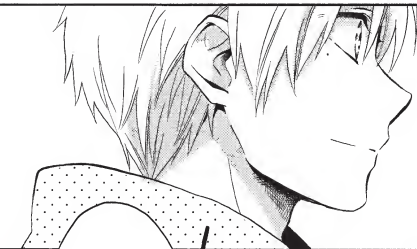
I'M
SURE YOUR
MOTHER
CAN'T WAIT
TO HEAR ALL
ABOUT IT.



OH, OF
COURSE.
YOU **ARE**
IN YOUR
LAST YEAR
OF HIGH
SCHOOL!



YOU MUST
HAVE A LOT
GOING ON, WHAT
WITH ALL THOSE
EXTRACURRICULARS
AND FUTURE
PLANS YOU
HAVE TO THINK
ABOUT.



HI, MOM.
IT'S GOOD TO
FINALLY SEE
YOU AGAIN.

RATTLE





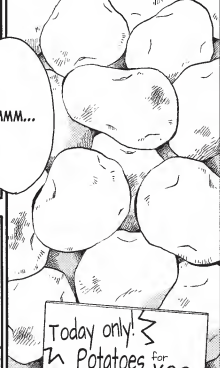
HMMM...



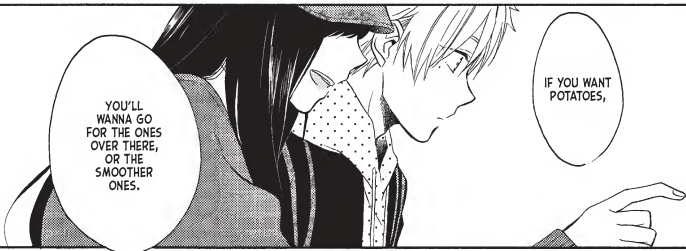
FROM NOW
ON, I GOTTA
LEAVE TIME
FOR VISITING
THE HOSPITAL
WHEN I PICK
UP SHIFTS.

Never
again!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
ABANDONED
HER FOR
A WHOLE
MONTH...



Today only!
Potatoes for you



YOU'LL
WANNA GO
FOR THE ONES
OVER THERE,
OR THE
SMOOTHER
ONES.

IF YOU WANT
POTATOES,







I haven't been to a super-market in ages!

HEY, I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD—!



Tetsu! This is really cheap!!

SHE'S ACTING JUST LIKE SHE ALWAYS USED TO.

IT'S LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.



WHAT A RELIEF...

IT'S THE SAME OLD SHIZU-SAN.

WHEW



BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE A SPOILED RICH GIRL, BUT YOU KNOW YOUR VEGETABLES.



...WELL, OUR FAMILY'S ALWAYS SHARED THE HOUSEWORK.

SO YOU DO THE COOKING AT HOME. THAT MAKES SENSE.



...TO
BEFORE
I SAID
I LIKED
HER?

Wait—

"WE"...?
YOU AND
WHO
ELSE?



WE MAKE
OUR OWN
MEALS,
TOO.

What?
?!

WHAT?!

HEY, YOU
SHOULDN'T
JUDGE
PEOPLE
THROUGH
STEREO-
TYPES!

DIDN'T YOU
NOTICE THAT
I HAVE A
VEGETABLE
GARDEN?



CAN'T WE
JUST KEEP
THINGS
LIKE THIS,
AND GO
BACK...



IT'S
PRETTY
TASTY.



...BORROWING
SHIZU'S BODY.

PEOPLE...



THERE ARE
OTHERS, JUST
LIKE ME.

CLACK



I'M SORRY
FOR NOT
EXPLAINING
ANYTHING.

THAT MUST
HAVE BEEN A
SHOCK THE
OTHER DAY.





DOUBLE
PERSON-
ALITIES.

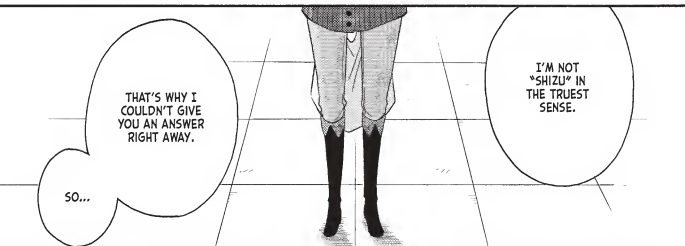


SO I
WANTED TO
START BY
INTRODUCING
YOU TO SHIZU
KARASAWA.
THIS IS HER
BODY.



I FIGURED
YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE ME IF
I CAME OUT
AND SAID...

...WE'RE
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE
INHABITING
THE SAME
BODY.



THAT'S WHY I
COULDN'T GIVE
YOU AN ANSWER
RIGHT AWAY.

SO...

I'M NOT
"SHIZU" IN
THE TRUEST
SENSE.



YEAH.
I MEAN,
USUALLY
I JUST
ACT LIKE
I'M SHIZU
BECAUSE WE
DON'T WANT
ANYONE TO
FIND OUT.



BUT,
UH, WELL
THE PERSON
WITHIN HER...
I'M... WELL,
I'M A GUY.



...LET'S
START
OVER. NICE
TO MEET
YOU.

MY NAME IS
HARUMICHI.



...SEE WHAT I
MEAN? I DOUBT
YOU'D CONFESS
YOUR LOVE
AGAIN NOW.

I'M
SORRY.



*LIVING
ALONE IN THE
OUTBUILDING
WHEN HER
FAMILY'S
HOUSE IS IN
THE SAME
YARD.*

**AN
INCONSISTENT
ASSORTMENT
OF HOBBIES.**

*SUDDEN
CHANGES IN
PERSONALITY.*

FORGET IT, SUZU. I'LL MAKE YOU SOME CURRY TOMORROW.

Why did you even go shopping?

SŌMEN NOODLES IN APRIL, ONII-CHAN?

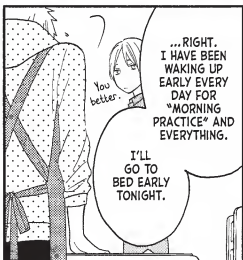
Why
did you
even go
shopping?

THAT GIRL
AND
THAT GIRL
WAS
ACTUALLY
A
MAN.

BUT

BUT...

IT'S
UNBELIEVABLE...
BUT IT ALL
ADDS UP...





THAT
APOLOGY
ISN'T REALLY
HELPING.



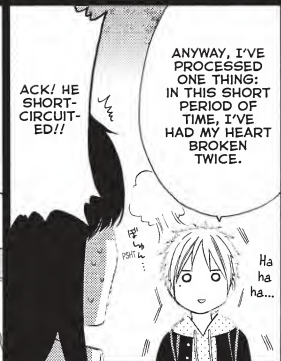
I JUST
WANTED TO
BE **FRIENDS!**
I DIDN'T THINK
YOU'D **FALL**
IN LOVE
WITH ME!

I-I'M
SORRY!
I'M **REALLY**
SORRY!!
I HAD NO
IDEA IT WAS
GOING TO
TURN OUT
LIKE THIS!

COULD
YOU JUST
STOP
TALKING
FOR A
SECOND?

WOBBLE

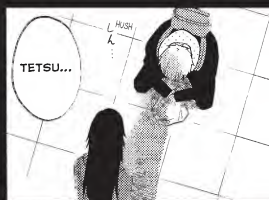
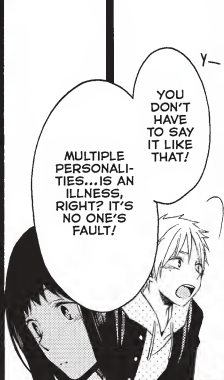
5
3
...



ACK! HE
SHORT-
CIRCUIT-
ED!!

ANYWAY, I'VE
PROCESSED
ONE THING:
IN THIS SHORT
PERIOD OF
TIME, I'VE
HAD MY HEART
BROKEN
TWICE.

Ha
ha
ha...



THANK
YOU.



THE
POTATOES.



...UH..



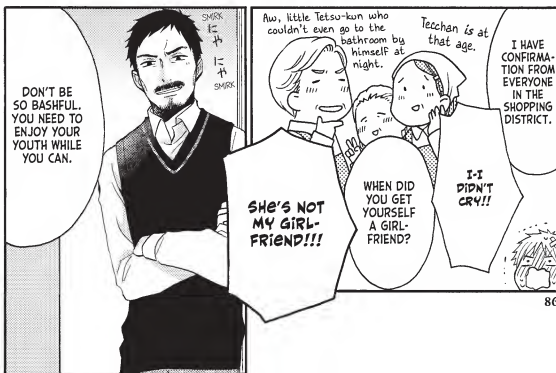
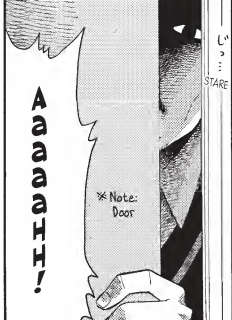
DAM-
MIT...

I WISH HE'D
JUST MADE UP
SOME REASON
TO DUMP ME.

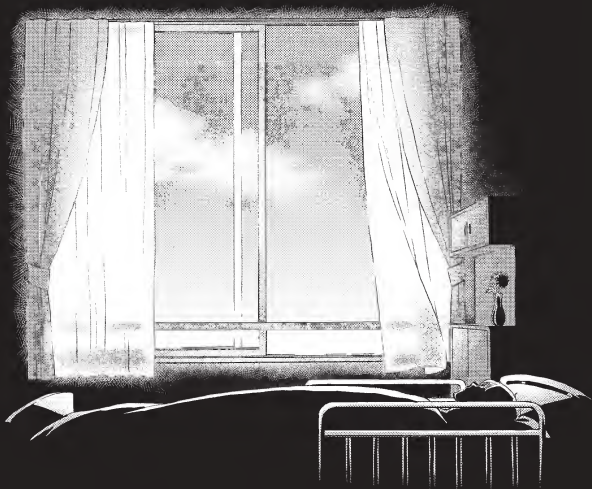
WELL,
IT
TURNS
OUT

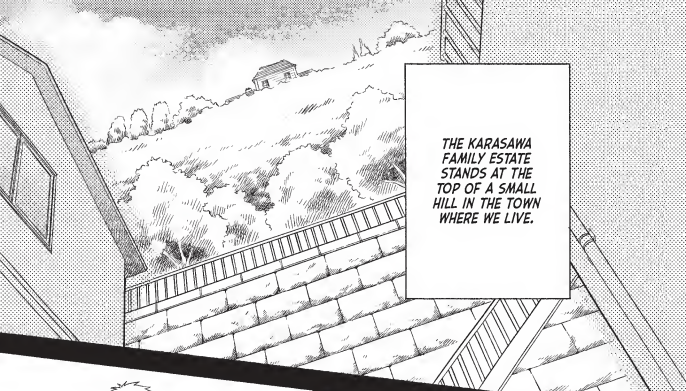
THE SHOPPING
BAG WAS LEFT
OUTSIDE THE
FRONT DOOR.









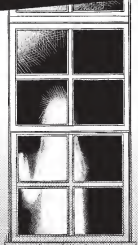


THE KARASAWA
FAMILY ESTATE
STANDS AT THE
TOP OF A SMALL
HILL IN THE TOWN
WHERE WE LIVE.



THE AREA AROUND
IT IS FULL OF
TREES, INCLINES,
AND STAIRS. IT'S
LIKE A DUNGEON
IN A VIDEO GAME.

WHEN I WAS
A KID, IT WAS
THE PERFECT
PLAYGROUND.



THERE WERE
SEVERAL
EYEWITNESS
REPORTS. A
GIRL WITH LONG
HAIR WOULD
STAND AT THE
WINDOW,
PEERING
OUTSIDE.



EVEN THEN,
I WOULD HEAR
RUMORS ABOUT
"THE HAUNTED
HOUSE AT THE
TOP OF THE
HILL."

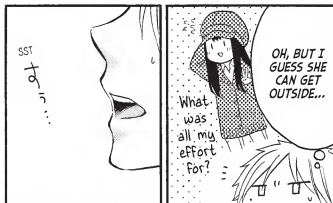


THAT, PLUS
WHAT KUMADA-
SAN SAID,
MEANS SHE'S
BEEN STUCK
IN THERE FOR
A VERY LONG
TIME...

THINKING
BACK ON IT,
IT MUST HAVE
BEEN SHIZU-
OJOSAMA...



BUT NOT A
SINGLE PERSON
HAD EVER
SEEN "HER"
OUTSIDE.



sst
す...
...

What
was
all my
effort
for?

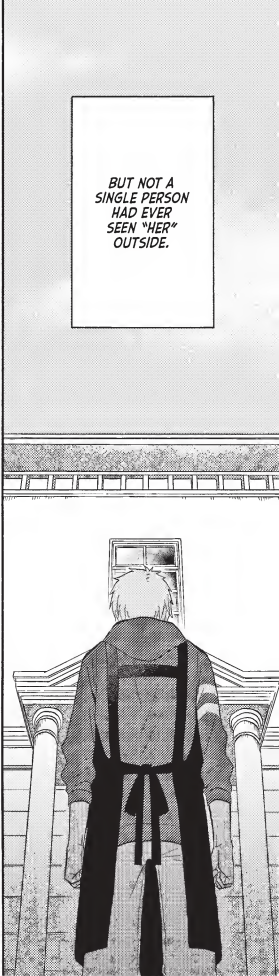
OH, BUT I
GUESS SHE
CAN GET
OUTSIDE...



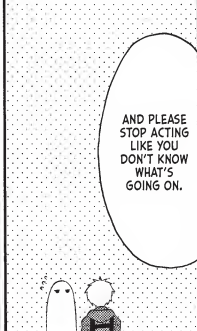
!!

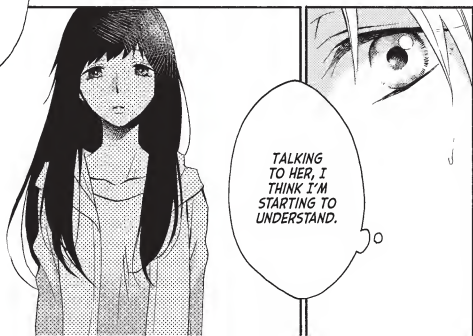
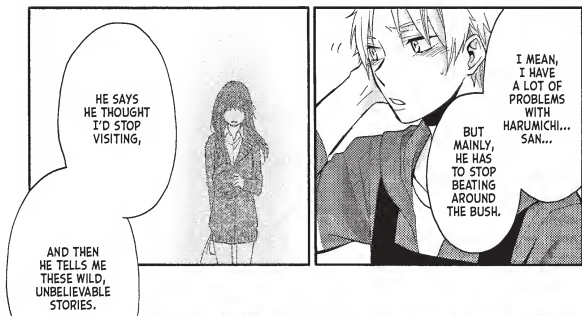
BEEEEEP

!!











...HE
WANTED
TO MAKE
A FRIEND
FOR YOU.

I'M NOT
SURE ABOUT
THIS, BUT I
THINK...



WHAT WAS I
SUPPOSED
TO DO?!

BELIEVE IT
OR NOT, I
SPENT *DAYS*
AGONIZING
OVER WHETHER
OR NOT I
SHOULD COME
BACK HERE.

YOU'RE
MAD...BUT
YOU STILL
CAME?

?

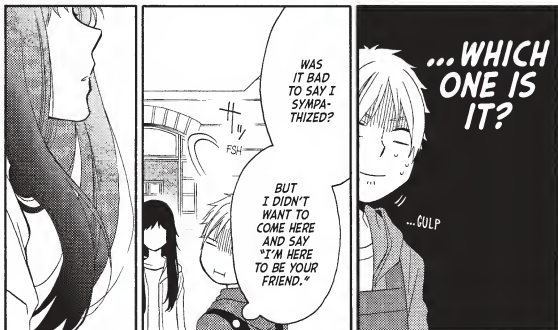
I FIGURE HE
WAS TESTING
ME, TO SEE IF
I WOULD STILL
COME AFTER I
KNEW ABOUT
YOU.

UGH, IT
MAKES
ME SO
MAD!

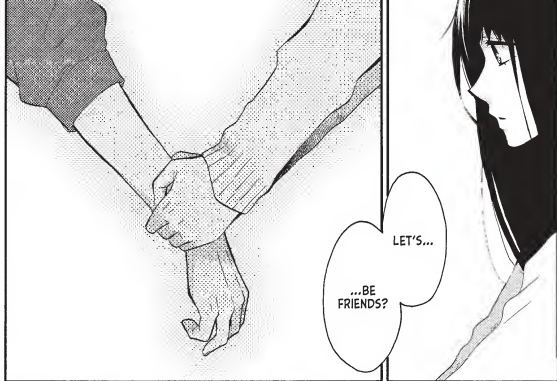




L ————— h
HUSH







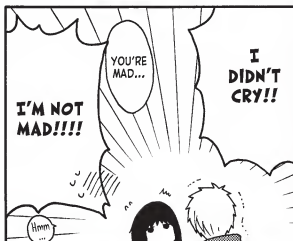


...HUH.

HER
HAND IS
WARM.

JUST A
NORMAL
HUMAN
HAND.





BUT IF IT
MEANS THAT
EVEN A GUY
LIKE ME
CAN HELP
SOMEONE...

Sigh...

Sigh... There you go letting your sympathy get the better of you.

Don't blame

Don't blame me if things go wrong.

I'm sure he'll be all right.

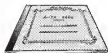
I'm sure he'll be all right.

We'll just let him think it's multiple personalities, and it should work out.

should work out.

I doubt it will be that easy...

I'll do my best not to hurt him.



110
A
SHUT



CHAPTER 3

PRELUDE

ONCE UPON
A TIME,
ON A VERY
RAINY DAY,



AS THE WATER
OVERTOOK HER,
SHE CALLED
DESPERATELY
FOR HELP,

BUT THE HEAVY
RAIN MUFFLED
HER VOICE, AND
NO ONE COULD
HEAR HER CRIES.



THERE WAS
AN ACCIDENT
AT OUR
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL,
WHERE A GIRL
FELL IN THE
POOL AND
DROWNED.

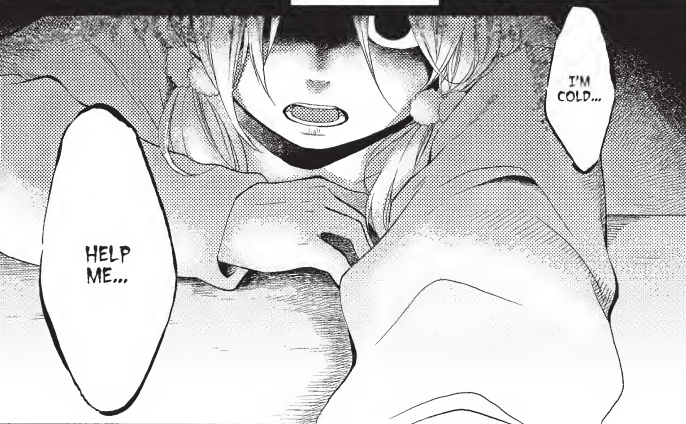


THEY
WOULD
HEAR A
VOICE...

...
ME.

SEVERAL
CHILDREN
REPORTED THAT
WHEN THEY
WALKED BY
THE POOL, AN
ICE-COLD HAND
GRABBED THEIR
ANKLES.

A FEW YEARS
LATER, THEY
CLOSED THE
POOL, AND
YOU KNOW
WHY?



I'M
COLD...

HELP
ME...

IT WOULD
SAY.



AND IT'S SO UNREAL THAT THE SCHOOL GHOST STORIES PALE IN COMPARISON.





WHATEVER,
I'M JUST
GOING
TO GET
BACK TO
CLEANING!

OOKAY,
SO HE
DOESN'T
LIKE GHOST
STORIES.

Serious
face

YOU'RE
REALLY
ASKING ME
ABOUT THAT?
REALLY??

DON'T
SAY THAT!
YOU'LL
JINX ME!!

PAT
ぽん

Seriously.

...WELL, ONE
THING I CAN SAY
IS, IF YOU HEAR A
RUMOR LIKE THAT
ABOUT A PLACE,
YOU BETTER STAY
AWAY FROM IT.



YEAH...

ONE OF
US ALWAYS
HAS TO DO
A FASHION
SHOW BEFORE
LEAVING THE
HOUSE.



Grr...

I JUST
CLEANED
THIS PLACE
UP, YOU
LITTLE...!



OR IT
WILL GET
WRINKLED!

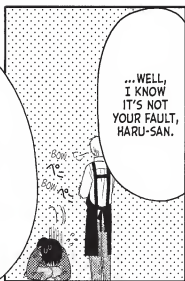
IF YOU
TAKE
SOME-
THING
OUT,
PUT IT
AWAY!!

WHO
WOULD
BELIEVE
IT?



BUT MAKE
SURE TO TELL
SHIZU-SAN
AND THE
OTHERS FOR
ME, PLEASE.

...WELL,
I KNOW
IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT,
HARU-SAN.



I'VE FOUND
MYSELF WITH
ONE FOOT IN A
WORLD YOU'D
ONLY FIND IN
MANGA AND
NOVELS.



A SPOILED
RICH GIRL
WITH
MULTIPLE
PERSONAL-
ITIES.

SH-SHE'S SHY.
SHE HASN'T
TALKED TO
OTHER PEOPLE
IN A REEEEEALLY
LONG TIME.

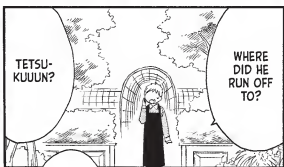
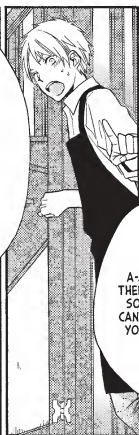


BUT
SHE HASN'T
SHOWN UP
ONCE SINCE
THE OTHER
DAY.

ANYWAY, I'M
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE TO SEE
SHIZU-SAN,









...YOU
HEARD
HIM,
SHIZU.



HUFF

HUFF

I-I'M
SORRY.
I JUST
GOT SO
WRAPPED
UP IN THE
WEEDING.



That's all
right. I'm
sorry to
interrupt.

...STILL,
I'M REALLY
GETTING
USED TO ALL
THIS, HUH.

WON'T
YOU...

TRY TO BE
BRAVE?



FOR ONE
THING,

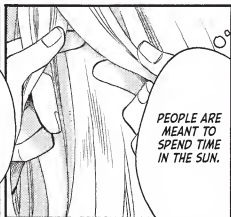
IF THEY KEEP
HER LOCKED
UP LIKE THAT,
SHE'S NEVER
GONNA GET
BETTER.



Oh!

OOPS,
SORRY.
ALMOST...

MISATO-KUN,
ARE YOU
DONE YET?



PEOPLE ARE
MEANT TO
SPEND TIME
IN THE SUN.



WHOA, YOU
REALLY ARE
SO NIMBLE,
TETSU!

Eeee!

That's
awesome!

IT'S SO
CUTE!

Wheew.

!
OOOOH!



...THERE,
ALL DONE.



I HOPE
HE TELLS
ME I'M
CUTE!

HEE HEE HEE!
THANK YOU!
NOW I'M ALL
READY FOR
MY DATE!



I LOOK
FORWARD
TO YOUR
CONTINUED
PATRONAGE
OF MISATO'S
BARGAIN
HAIR
SALON!
♡

I DO
THIS
FOR MY
SISTERS
ALL THE
TIME.



If not for
that, the girls
would be all
over him.

Thank
you!



GIRLS ARE
SUPPOSED
TO BE BRIGHT
AND SHINING,
RIGHT?

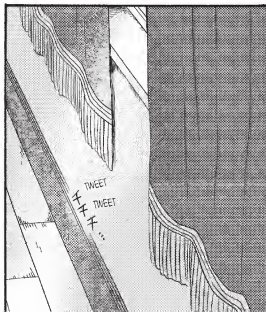
YEAH,
LIKE
THAT...



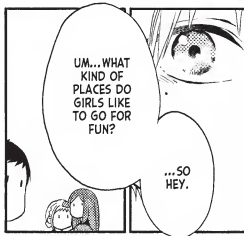
Lucky.

Mm-mm,
don't you
worry.
You're an
angel.

Yay
♡



TWEET
TWEET
TWEET



UM...WHAT
KIND OF
PLACES DO
GIRLS LIKE
TO GO FOR
FUN?

...SO
HEY.





Oh...
yeah...

WITH
HARU-SAN'S
PERMISSION,
I'VE TAKEN
THE LIBERTY
OF ILLEGALLY
ENTERING
YOUR HOME.

LUNCH
はく

TETSU-
KUN...

WHY...?



...SUNDAY.



WOULD
YOU

LIKE TO GO
OUTSIDE?



SHIZU-
SAN.



I do...
remember
that...



...?
MEMORIES
...?

RATTLE
Then
to the
right...

YOU...
DON'T HAVE
ANY MEMORIES
FROM WHEN
HARU-SAN IS
OUT, DO YOU?

RATTLE

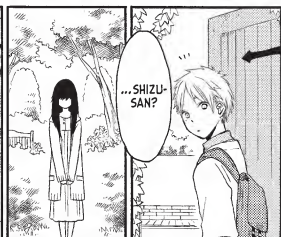
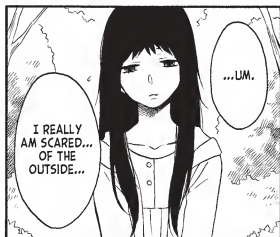
Let's see,
I think
I was
supposed
to turn
it left
once...

RATTLE

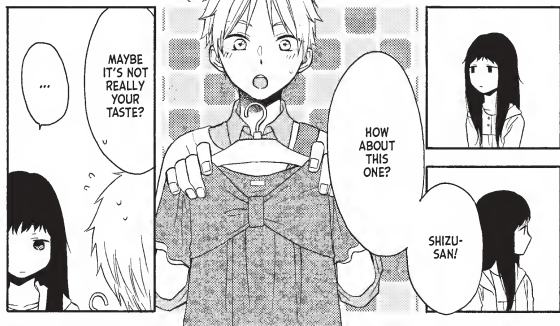
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
ABOUT THIS.

...COME
TO
THINK
OF IT,

RATTLE



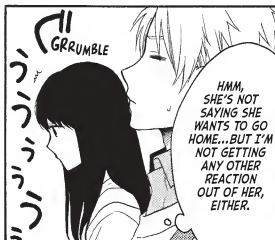




...I'M
SORRY.

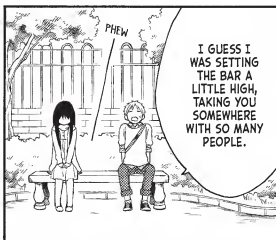


DO YOU
WANT TO GO
SOMEWHERE
ELSE?



GRUMBLE

HMM,
SHE'S NOT
SAYING SHE
WANTS TO GO
HOME...BUT I'M
NOT GETTING
ANY OTHER
REACTION
OUT OF HER,
EITHER.



PHEW

I GUESS I
WAS SETTING
THE BAR A
LITTLE HIGH,
TAKING YOU
SOMEWHERE
WITH SO MANY
PEOPLE.

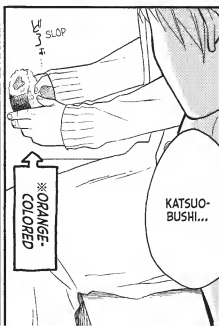
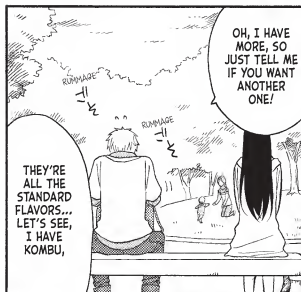
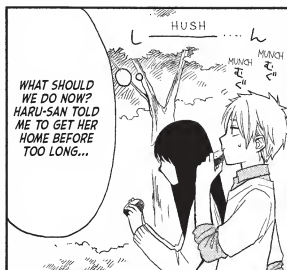


Sorry we're
not going to
a café.

IT'S NOT
MUCH, BUT I
MADE SOME
SNACKS...

W-WAIT
JUST A
SECOND,
OKAY?

OH! YOU
HAVEN'T
EATEN
ANYTHING,
HAVE YOU?!



AAAAHH!
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO FORCE
YOURSELF
TO EAT IT!!

MUNCH
もくもく

MARMA...
LADE...?

I'M
SORRY! MY
SISTER PUT
SOME WEIRD
FILLING IN...

GULP
ぐん

Okay! Use
whatever
filling you
want!

Suzu
wants
to help!

G
A
S
P!

DING!

I LIKE
IT...

HUH...?
YOU...YOU
LIKE THAT
KIND OF
THING?!

I
DIDN'T...
FORCE
MYSELF.

BITE
はさむ

...ABOUT
WHAT I
LIKE OR
DON'T
LIKE...

OR...DO
I...? I'VE
NEVER
REALLY
THOUGHT...



MUNCH
もく
...

MUNCH
もく
...

...ARE
YOU READY
TO GO
HOME?

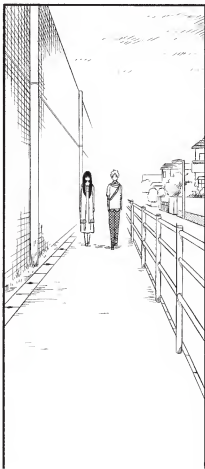
Woo!
Go, go!

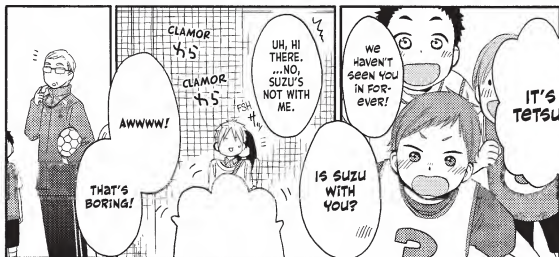
...



HUH?
SHIZU-
SAN?

Come
on,
pass
it!







SINCE YOU'RE
HERE, WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
JOIN US, AS
AN ALUM?



HIGH
SCHOOL,
SIR.

TIME
SURE FLIES.
ARE YOU
IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL
NOW,
TETSU?

COACH!



HE WAS IN
OUR CLUB
WHEN HE WAS
YOUR AGE.

COACH,
YOU KNOW
TETSU?

What's
up?



She's
not my
girl-
friend!

SHOW YOUR
GIRLFRIEND
HOW COOL
YOU ARE!

WHO
CARES?
LET'S
PLAY!

A
W
W
W...

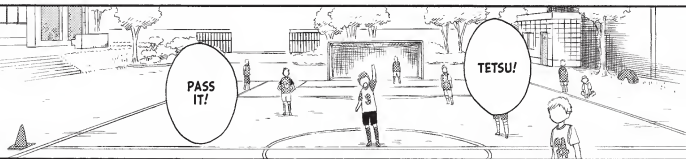


I'M WITH
SOMEONE
TODAY,
SO...

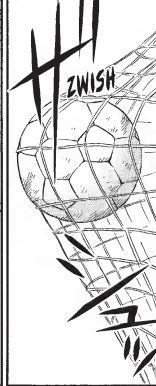
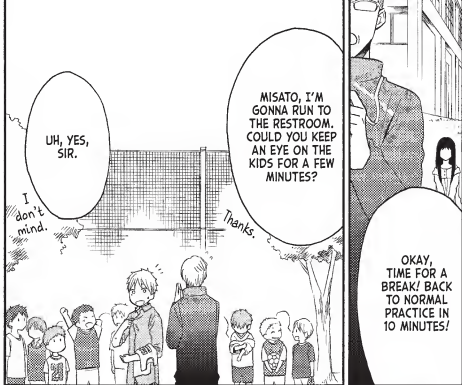


HM?

DON'T
YOU KIDS SAY
ANYTHING
ABOUT THIS
TO MY DAD.



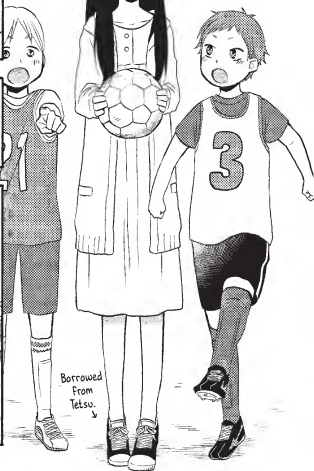
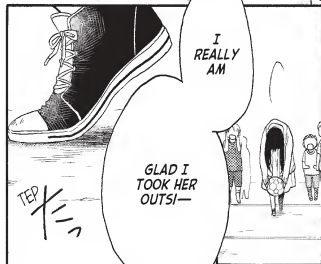




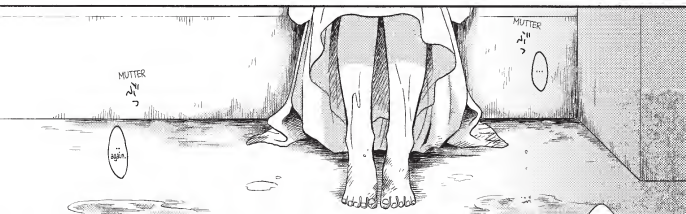


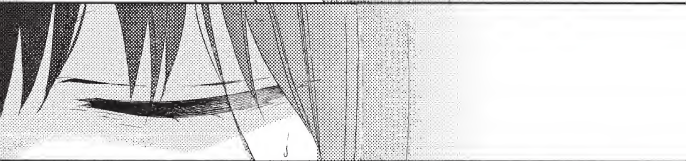
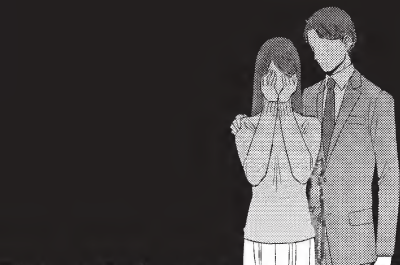
At the goal, as hard as you can!

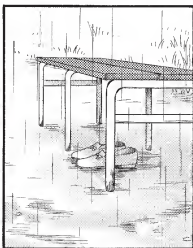
All you do is kick it!

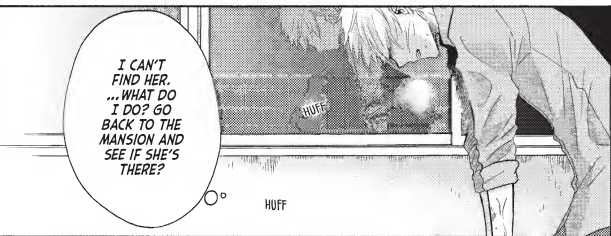


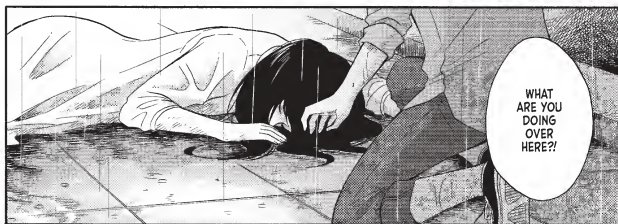
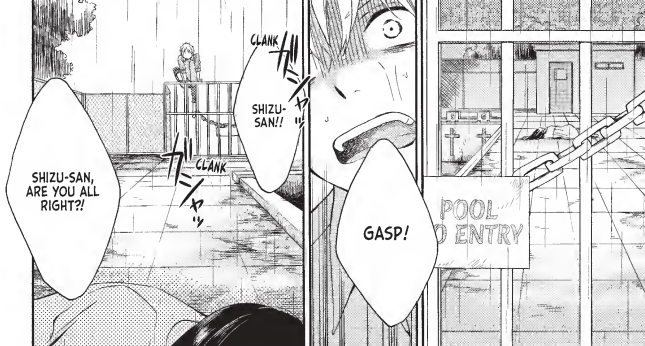


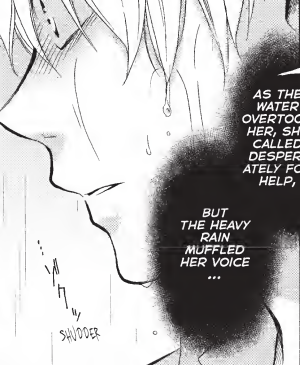








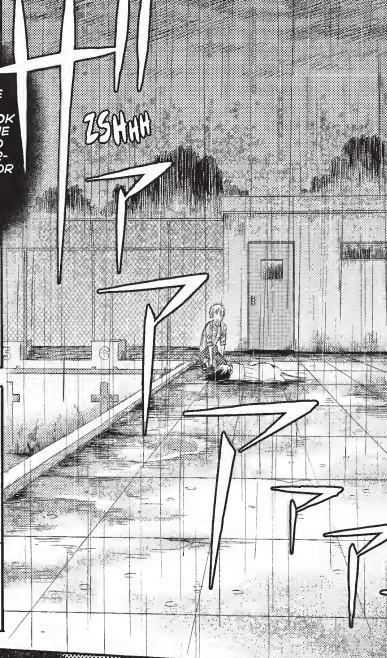




AS THE
WATER
OVERTOOK
HER, SHE
CALLED
DESPERATELY FOR
HELP,

BUT
THE HEAVY
RAIN
MUFFLED
HER VOICE
...

SHIVER

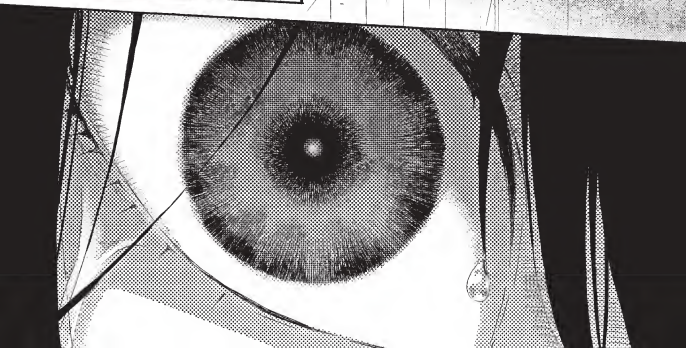


SHIZU-SAN?
ARE YOU
AWA...



SHIVER
NII
NII

GH...!
WHY AM I
REMEM-
BERING
THAT
NOW?!







SHUDDER

I'M
COLD...

CHILL



WHAT...
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!
I CAN'T
STOP
SHAKING...

HUFF

YOU KNOW
HER... THAT'S
SHIZU-SAN!

HUFF



GAH!

WHOOSH

HI!



WHO...

GRN

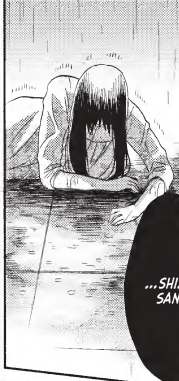
ULL...

A close-up of a boy's face, looking slightly to the side. He has dark hair and a white tag hanging from his neck. The tag has the letters 'GRN' and 'ULL...' printed on it.



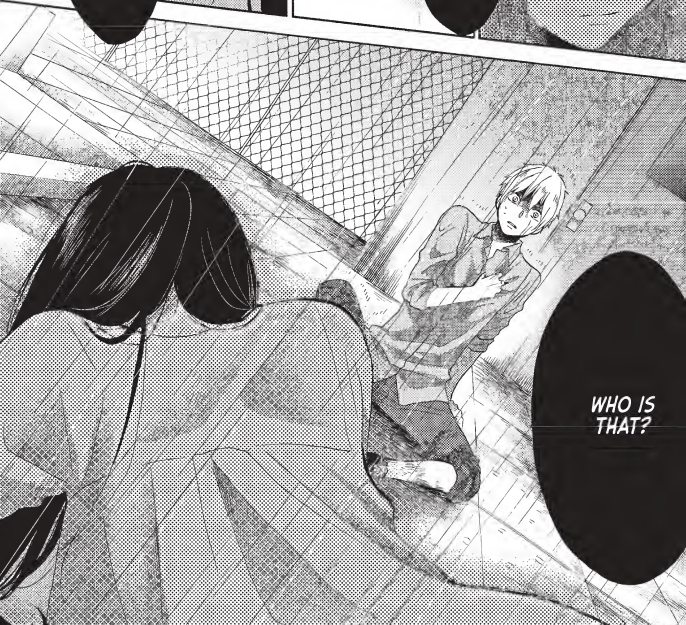
IS IT
REALLY...

A close-up of a girl's face, looking directly at the viewer with a serious expression. She has dark hair and bangs.



...SHIZU-
SAN?

A person with long dark hair is lying face down on a tiled floor, their head resting on their arms. The floor is made of large square tiles.



WHO IS
THAT?

A boy with short blonde hair and a girl with long dark hair are in a hallway. The boy is standing and looking at the girl, who is sitting on the floor with her back to the camera. A chain-link fence is in the background.



CHAPTER 4

SCALES

EVERYONE
JUST LEFT
YOU THERE,
AND NOW YOU
CAN'T GET
HOME?

WHAT?!



HONESTLY!
YOU KNOW
YOU GET
SCARED.
THAT WAS
NO TIME
TO ACT
TOUGH.

YOU
SHOULD
HAVE GONE
HOME WITH
HIM THEN.



SHUFFLE

WHAT
ABOUT
CHIHITO-
KUN?!

HE SAID
IT WAS
STUPID
AND LEFT
BEFORE
WE EVEN
STARTED
THE GHOST
STORIES...

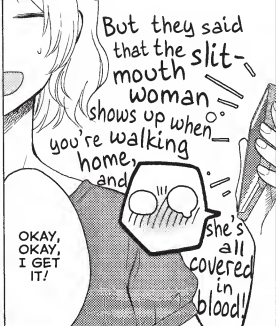
*Wake Up,
Sleeping
Beauty*



OH...
TETSU
SAYS HE
FORGOT HIS
UMBRELLA.
I'M GOING
TO GO PICK
HIM UP.

Take
care of
Suzu.

HONEY
?



But they said
that the slit-
mouth
woman
shows up when
you're walking
home,
and

OKAY,
OKAY,
I GET
IT!

she's
all
covered
in
blood!

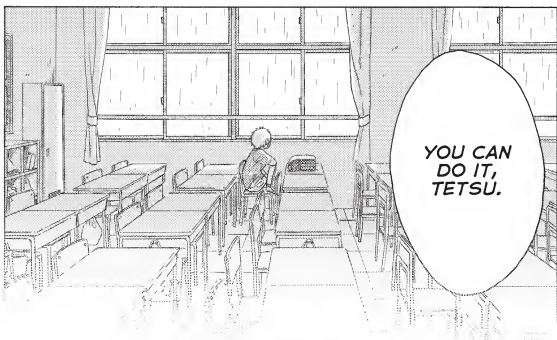


HE'LL
HAVE TO GET
THROUGH IT
ON HIS OWN,
NO MATTER
HOW SCARED
HE IS.

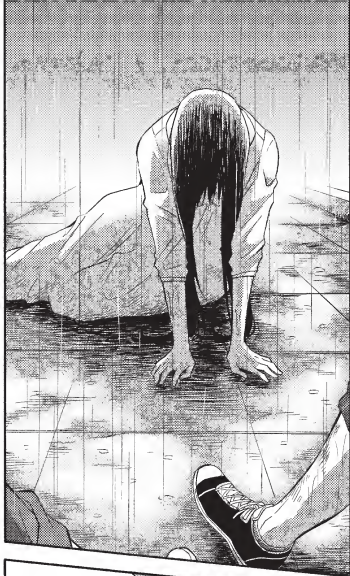
SOME-
DAY,



WELL, I
GUESS I
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
DO THESE
THINGS
FOR HIM
FOREVER.



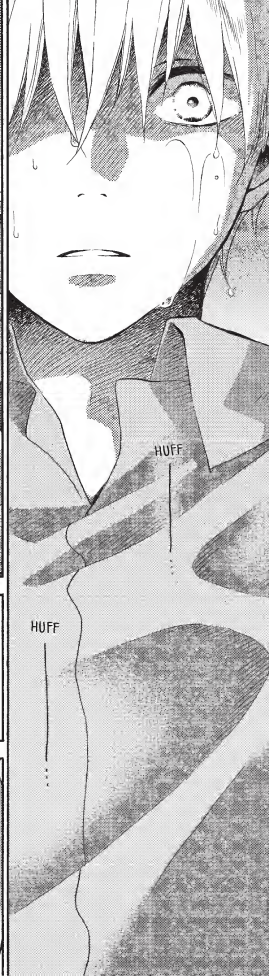
YOU CAN
DO IT,
TETSU.



NO!
THAT'S NOT
SHIZU-SAN...
OR HARU-SAN.

GASP...

THEN
WHO...





THIS IS SO
EXCITING...

WIIICE



HEY, WHY
DIDN'T
YOU COME
FOR ME?

THERE WAS
AN ACCIDENT
AT OUR
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL,
WHERE A
GIRL FELL
IN THE
POOL AND
DROWNED.



WHEN
I'M IN THE
WATER...
IT'S SO
PAINFUL...



I'M NOT IN
THE WATER
ANYMORE...
I CAN
BREATHE...



~~~~!!  
GH...AH...  
STOP...

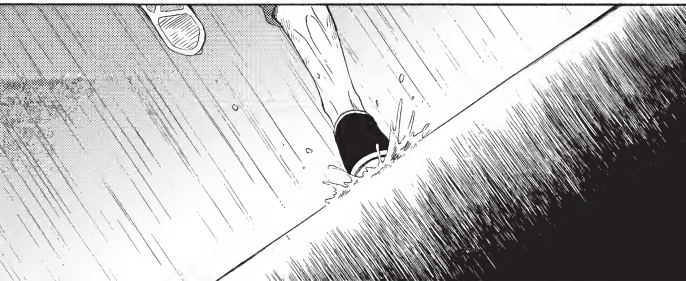
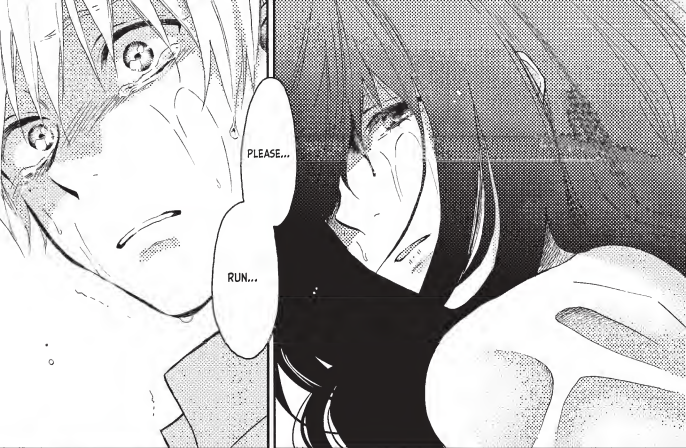
Please  
...

WELL?

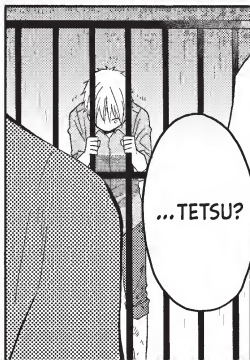
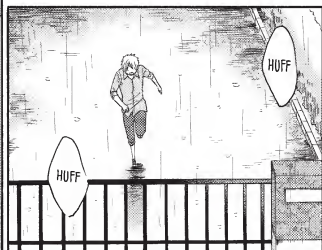
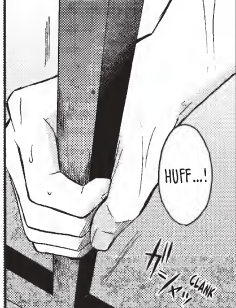
SHIZU-  
SAN!!!

TWITCH













...CHIHIRO.



A-  
AMBULANCE!!  
CALL AN  
AMBULANCE!  
TO THE POOL!



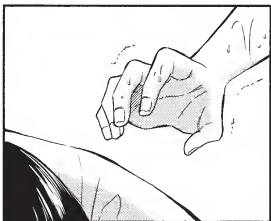
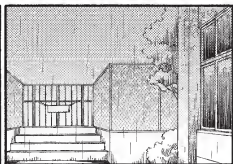
CHIHIRO!!

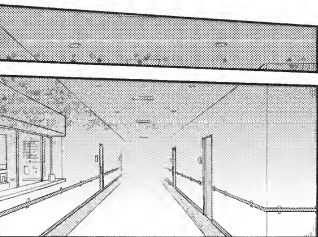


WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
OUT  
HERE?

YOU NEVER  
LEAVE HOME  
WITHOUT A  
COLLAPSIBLE  
UMBRELLA,  
AND  
YET...

PHEW...





SHE'S HAD A CONCUSSION. SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT SHE'LL NEED TO STAY OFF HER FEET FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

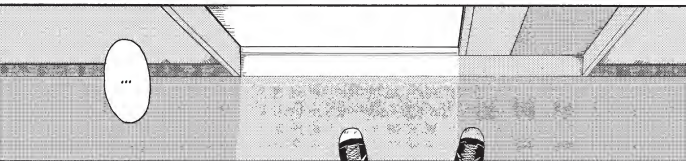
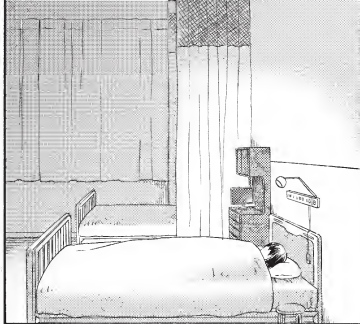
I'LL MAKE UP SOMETHING TO TELL YOUR FAMILY.

YOU OWE ME ONE.



SHE'S ASLEEP NOW, BUT... WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HER BEFORE YOU GO?





...I'M  
SORRY FOR  
FRIGHTENING  
YOU.





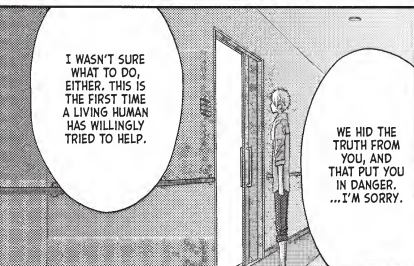
...AND  
YOU...  
ARE...?



AH, YOU  
HAVEN'T  
MET ME...  
HAVE YOU,  
TETSU  
MISATO-  
KUN?



THANK YOU  
FOR HELPING  
OUR SHIZU.



I WASN'T SURE  
WHAT TO DO,  
EITHER. THIS IS  
THE FIRST TIME  
A LIVING HUMAN  
HAS WILLINGLY  
TRIED TO HELP.

WE HID THE  
TRUTH FROM  
YOU, AND  
THAT PUT YOU  
IN DANGER.  
...I'M SORRY.



...



BUT  
WOULD YOU  
LISTEN TO AN  
EXPLANATION?

...I KNOW  
IT MAY BE  
TOO LATE.

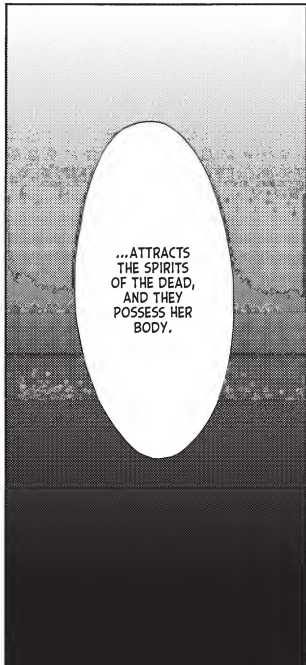




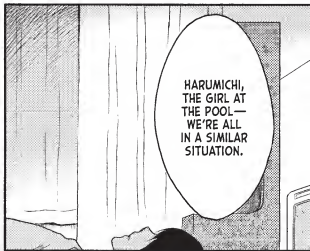
I MYSELF  
PASSED  
AWAY MORE  
THAN 20  
YEARS AGO.

MY NAME  
IS SHINOBU  
KARASAWA.

I AM  
SHIZU'S GREAT-  
GRANDFATHER.



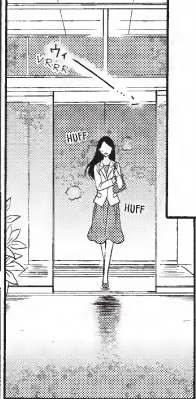
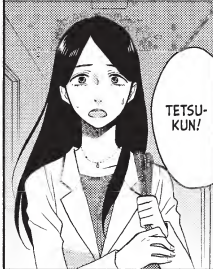
...ATTRACTS  
THE SPIRITS  
OF THE DEAD,  
AND THEY  
POSSESS HER  
BODY.



HARUMICHI,  
THE GIRL AT  
THE POOL—  
WE'RE ALL  
IN A SIMILAR  
SITUATION.



SHIZU  
KARASAWA...



I WILL  
ACCEPT ANY  
PUNISHMENT  
YOU SEE FIT.

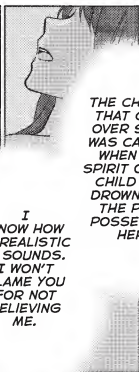
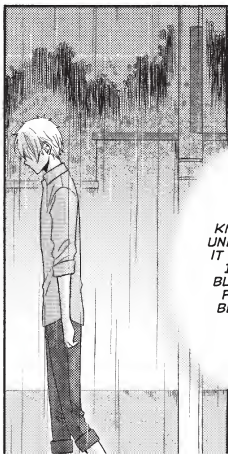
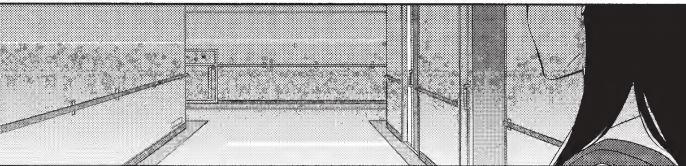


I AM TRULY  
SORRY...

...THAT ALL  
OF THIS  
HAPPENED.



YOU  
WON'T  
SEE ME  
AGAIN.



I  
KNOW HOW  
UNREALISTIC  
IT SOUNDS.  
I WON'T  
BLAME YOU  
FOR NOT  
BELIEVING  
ME.

THE CHANGE  
THAT CAME  
OVER SHIZU  
WAS CAUSED  
WHEN THE  
SPIRIT OF THE  
CHILD WHO  
DROWNED IN  
THE POOL  
POSSESSED  
HER.



はし  
SPLASH

NOT  
EVEN HER  
PARENTS  
KNOW  
ABOUT HER  
CONDITION.

THEY  
STILL THINK  
THAT THEIR  
DAUGHTER  
HAS MULTIPLE  
PERSONALITY  
DISORDER.

DRIP  
ぽ  
た

OH,  
AND COACH  
KAWASAKI  
CAME BY  
TO DROP  
OFF YOUR  
BAG. BUT  
WHAT'S—

Coach  
Kawasaki

WHAT'S  
WRONG?! WHERE'S  
YOUR UMBRELLA?!  
CHII-CHAN SAID  
YOU SAW SOMEONE  
PASS OUT IN THE  
STREET AND TOOK  
THEM TO THE  
HOSPITAL...

ONII-  
CHAN?!

...0

HE  
PASSED  
OUT?!

FWAM!



Tetsu!!  
Whoa?!  
He's  
burning  
up!

...EVER  
SINCE SHE  
WAS A  
CHILD,

SHIZU HAS  
UNDERGONE  
COUNTLESS  
TREATMENTS  
FOR MULTIPLE  
PERSONALITY  
DISORDER.

...BUT AS  
YOU CAN SEE,  
NOT ONE OF  
THEM HAS  
LED TO ANY  
IMPROVEMENT.



BUT THAT  
DOESN'T  
SOLVE  
ANYTHING  
FOR SHIZU.

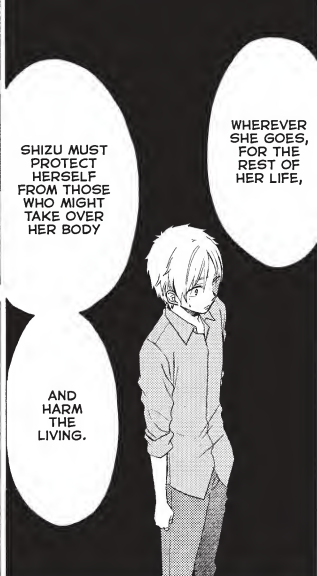


HER  
PARENTS  
HAVE BOTH  
GIVEN UP.  
THEY BANISHED  
HER TO THAT  
OUTBUILDING,  
AND NOW  
THEY ACT LIKE  
NOTHING IS  
WRONG.





BUT  
UNFORTU-  
NATELY...AS  
SHE IS NOW,  
SHE DOESN'T  
HAVE THAT  
KIND OF  
STRENGTH.



SHIZU MUST  
PROTECT  
HERSELF  
FROM THOSE  
WHO MIGHT  
TAKE OVER  
HER BODY

WHEREVER  
SHE GOES,  
FOR THE  
REST OF  
HER LIFE,

AND  
HARM  
THE  
LIVING.



THAT IS  
WHY I  
TOOK THE  
INITIATIVE.

I LOOKED  
FOR SOULS  
WHO WOULD  
HELP HER.



THEY  
ARE  
ALLIES.

I HAVE  
FORMED  
A PACT TO  
PROTECT  
HER WITH  
HARUMICHI  
AND THE  
OTHERS.



BUT  
TODAY...



YOU'VE  
HEARD  
MY PIECE.  
WHAT YOU  
DO NOW IS  
UP TO YOU.

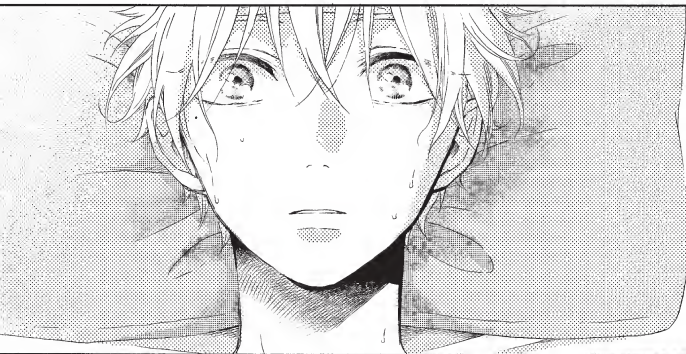
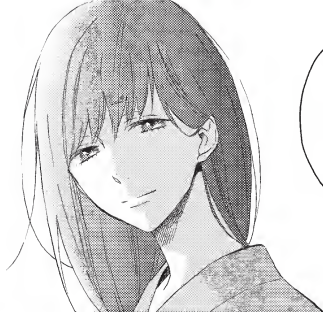


BUT  
TODAY, FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME, SHE  
ACTED OF  
HER OWN  
ACCORD—  
TO PROTECT  
YOU.

YOU SEE,  
NORMALLY,  
WHEN SHE'S  
POSSESSED,  
SHIZU LETS  
THE SPIRIT  
TAKE OVER.

...THAT YOU  
WON'T HATE  
SHIZU FOR  
THIS.

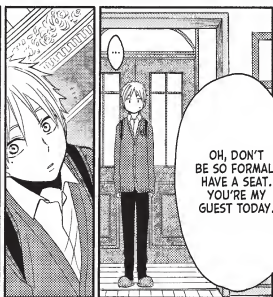
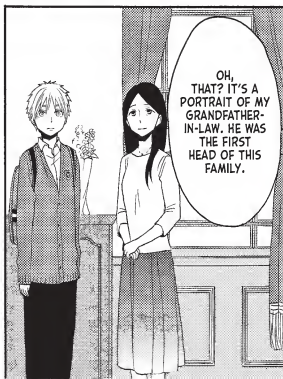
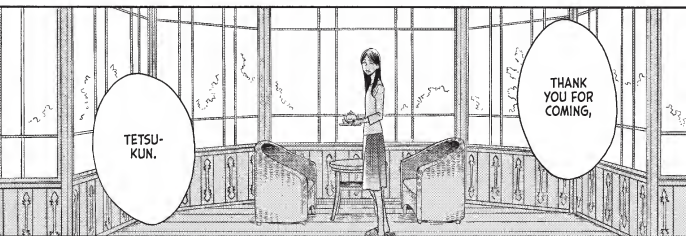
BUT I  
HOPE...

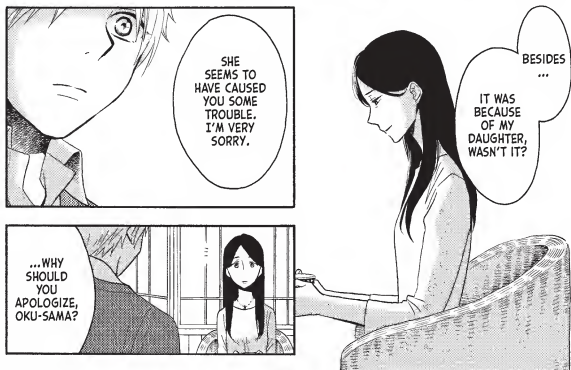










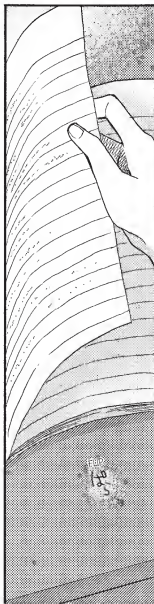




THAT WAS  
THE FIRST  
TIME IN A  
LONG WHILE  
THAT I'VE  
TALKED TO  
SHIZU IN  
PERSON.

SHE ONLY  
SAID ONE  
THING—SHE  
ASKED IF YOU  
WERE ALL  
RIGHT.

YOU...  
REMINDE ME  
OF YOUR  
MOTHER,  
TETSU-KUN.



I INVITED  
YOU HERE  
TODAY TO  
ASK FOR  
YOUR HELP.

...TETSU-  
KUN.



NOW I  
SEE THAT  
SHE IS  
CAPABLE  
OF CARING  
ABOUT  
OTHERS.





Do you think Tetsu will stop coming?  
Of course he will stop coming

Of course he will. He already hates  
cult stuff, and now we trauma  
m... This is all you  
alt, Haru-

But we couldn't just spring it on  
him! He would've freaked out and  
topped coming!!



GASP



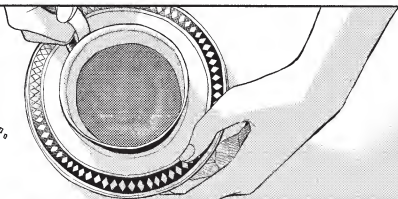
topped coming!!

Shizu, do you want  
him to come back?



...AND  
THAT'S  
SHIZU'S  
SECRET.

カ  
タ  
ク  
...



AND...  
THAT'S  
WHAT I  
NEED YOU  
TO HELP  
ME WITH.

NOT  
EVEN HER  
PARENTS  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
HER CON-  
DITION.

...

IT MUST HAVE  
BEEN QUITE THE  
SHOCK TO SEE  
HER BECOME  
ANOTHER PERSON  
LIKE THAT. BUT  
THAT'S HOW THE  
ILLNESS WORKS.

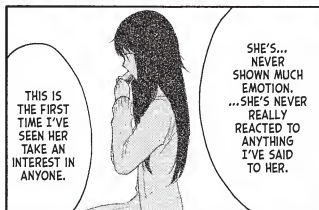




OR, ACTUALLY,  
WHEN YOU COME  
OVER, I WAS WONDERING  
IF YOU WOULD  
WORK FOR HER.

I HATE  
TO ASK  
AFTER WHAT  
HAPPENED,  
BUT IF YOU  
COULD,

I WANT  
YOU TO  
KEEP  
WORKING  
FOR ME.



THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'VE  
SEEN HER  
TAKE AN  
INTEREST IN  
ANYONE.

SHE'S...  
NEVER  
SHOWN MUCH  
EMOTION.  
...SHE'S NEVER  
REALLY  
REACTED TO  
ANYTHING  
I'VE SAID  
TO HER.



AND I THINK  
THAT MEANS...  
AT THE VERY  
LEAST...YOU'RE  
SPECIAL TO  
HER!



...HUH?

YOU'RE  
THE ONLY  
ONE I CAN  
TURN TO!



YOU'RE...



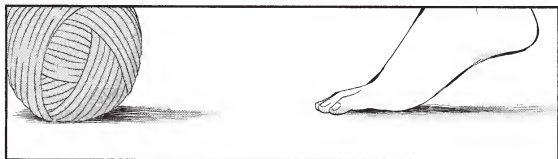
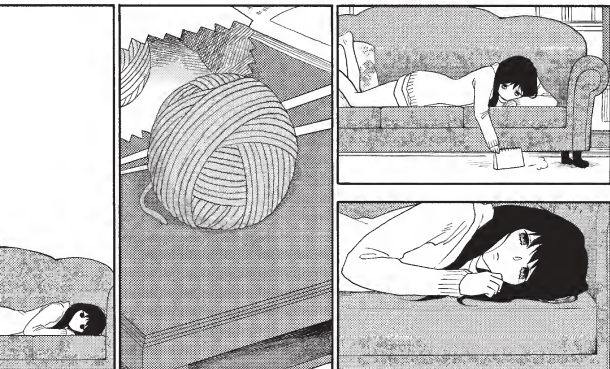
PLEASE.

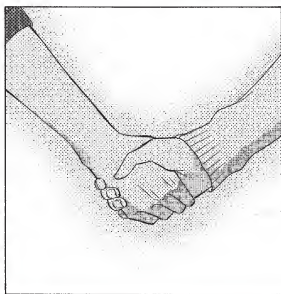
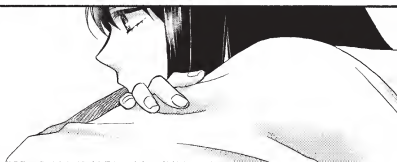
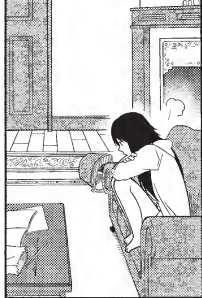
I'M  
BEGGING  
YOU!

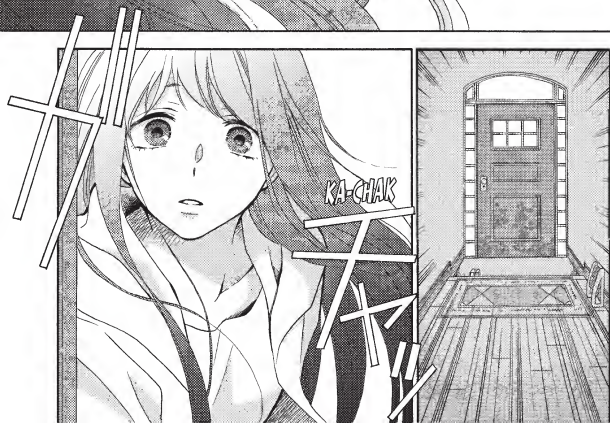
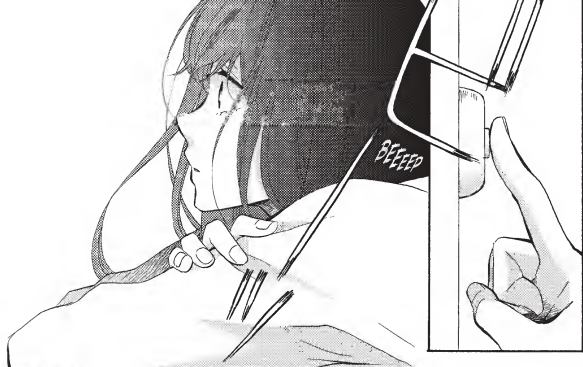


...NOT  
GOING  
TO CRY  
AGAIN?

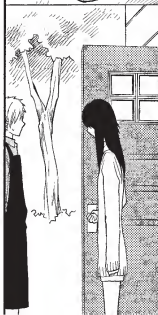








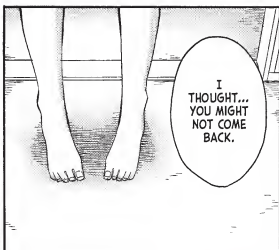




NOD



I FEEL  
LIKE...



I  
THOUGHT...  
YOU MIGHT  
NOT COME  
BACK.



BUT FOR  
SOME REASON,  
YOUR MOTHER  
ASKED ME TO  
LOOK AFTER  
YOU INSTEAD.

I... WAS  
PRETTY SURE  
I WAS GOING  
TO BE FIRED,  
TOO.

...WE'VE  
HAD THIS CONVER-  
SATION  
BEFORE.



I MEAN, I'M  
ALREADY IN  
PRETTY DEEP.

I can  
come here  
without  
sneaking  
around!

AND SO, BELIEVE  
IT OR NOT, AS  
OF TODAY, I AM  
YOUR PERSONAL  
HOUSEKEEPER.

THAT'S...



YOU...  
*DID*  
HELP ME,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?



AND I  
DO OWE  
YOU.

...THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH FOR  
SAVING ME  
THE OTHER  
DAY.



I...



SO I  
THINK...  
YOU'RE  
THE  
ONE...

...WHO  
SAVED  
*ME.*



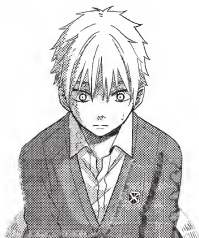
AT THE  
POOL...  
I WAS  
DROWNING.

I WAS  
IN HER  
MEMORIES...  
UNDER THE  
WATER...

BUT I...  
I HEARD  
YOUR  
VOICE.



BUT I  
CAN'T.



I'M  
TERRIBLY  
SORRY,  
MA'AM.



I...

IF  
THAT

WERE  
EVER TO  
HAPPEN  
AGAIN...

...IF

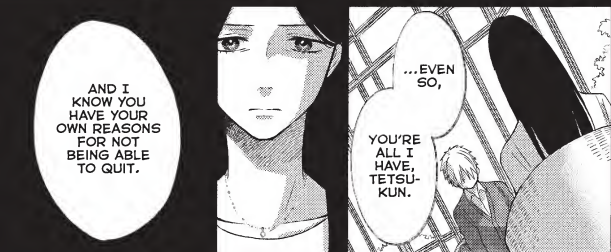




...BE  
RESPON-  
SIBLE FOR  
THAT!

I  
CAN'T...

THERE'S  
NOTHING...  
I CAN DO.



AND I  
KNOW YOU  
HAVE YOUR  
OWN REASONS  
FOR NOT  
BEING ABLE  
TO QUIT.

...EVEN  
SO,

YOU'RE  
ALL I  
HAVE,  
TETSU-  
KUN.

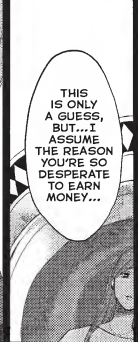


WHAT  
...?

YOUR  
FATHER IS  
A MAN WHO  
KEEPS HIS  
WORD.



...IS YOUR  
MOTHER?

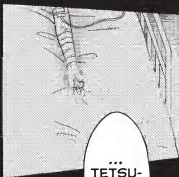
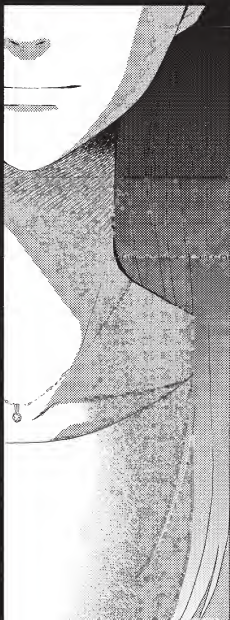


THIS  
IS ONLY  
A GUESS,  
BUT...I  
ASSUME  
THE REASON  
YOU'RE SO  
DESPERATE  
TO EARN  
MONEY...



DIDN'T  
YOU KNOW,  
TETSU-KUN?  
I'VE BEEN  
FRIENDS WITH  
YOUR PAR-  
ENTS SINCE  
WE WERE  
IN HIGH  
SCHOOL.

MISATO-  
SENPAI  
TOLD ME  
ABOUT THE  
FIGHT YOU  
TWO ARE  
HAVING.



...  
TETSU-  
KUN.

IF YOU  
ACCEPT THIS  
JOB, I WILL  
MAKE SURE  
YOU ARE  
SUFFICIENTLY  
COMPEN-  
SATED.

THIS ISN'T  
A REQUEST.  
IT'S A  
BUSINESS  
TRANSACTION.

...PLEASE  
DON'T  
THANK ME.

AS FOR THE  
OTHER DAY...  
LET'S JUST SAY  
WE'RE EVEN.

...

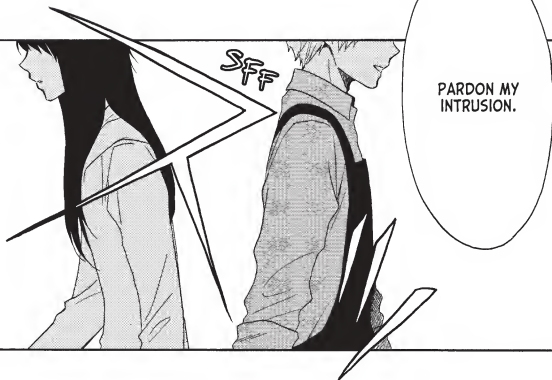
OH...

THEN  
LET'S...

BE  
FRIENDS...

SO LET'S  
START  
OVER—  
I LOOK  
FORWARD  
TO  
WORKING  
FOR YOU.

**THIS WAS THE DAY...**



**...I MADE UP MY MIND.  
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MY HANDS SHOOK, OR HOW TERRIFIED I WAS...**

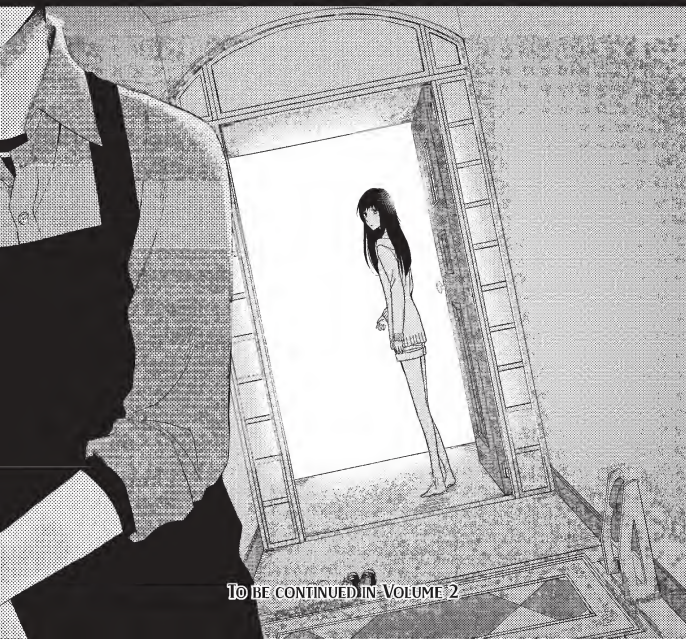


**...I MADE UP MY MIND TO WALK THROUGH THIS DOOR...**





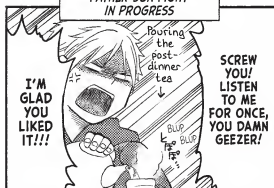
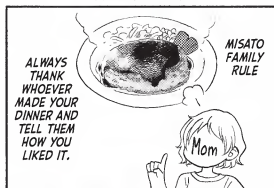
*...IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE ONE I CARE ABOUT.*



TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2



# FAMILY RULES



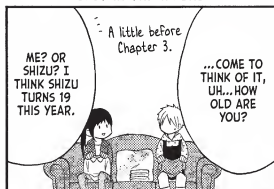
Bonus  
Sleeping  
Beauty



Thank you  
for reading  
this far!



# SALT IN THE WOUND



# WHO EVEN CARES ANYMORE



Wake Up, Sleeping Beauty  
Height Chart ☆



☆ SPECIAL THANKS To ☆☆

My editor Y-san  
Oga-san  
Kyoko-san  
Oikawa-san  
My family, friends, and  
former colleagues who are  
always supporting me.

THANKS TO THE HELP OF MANY PEOPLE, I HAVE NOW  
RELEASED MY SECOND GRAPHIC NOVEL. I WANT TO  
KEEP WORKING HARD UNTIL IT'S OVER, SO I CAN  
REPAY YOU ALL WITH MY MANGA.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT UNDER THE COVER.  
BASICALLY, I DRAW SHORT COMICS FOR UNDER THE  
SLIPCOVER, WITH THE IDEA THAT YOU'LL READ THEM  
AFTER YOU'VE READ THE BOOK. SO IF YOU LIKE, GO  
AHEAD AND READ THEM WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED.  
[EDITOR'S NOTE: WE'VE INCLUDED THESE ON THE  
NEXT PAGES FOR OUR ENGLISH READERS!]

WELL, I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME TWO!

Megumi Morino  
森野 萌

2015.4.13

WHEN WE GET  
THROUGH THE  
MAZE, WE'LL  
ARRIVE AT THE  
DEMON KING'S  
CASTLE!

OUR  
GOAL IS  
THE TOP  
OF THE  
HILL!

STOP,  
ONII-  
CHAN!

I CAN'T  
WALK  
ANOTHER  
STEP!

WE'RE  
ALMOST  
THERE, MY  
MINIONS!

UGH,  
COME  
ON, STOP  
CRYING,  
RYO!

Waaaaaah~

MRI...  
I ONLY LET  
YOU JOIN THE  
PARTY BECAUSE  
YOU SAID  
YOU REALLY  
WANTED TO!

FOLLOW  
ME—THE  
GREAT  
HERO!!



I'LL  
CARRY  
YOU.

Just for  
a little  
while.

FINE...  
HERE.



SHUT  
UP!!

Expay  
Paronom!

SHE'S  
NOT THE  
ONLY  
ONE WHO  
CRIES  
A LOT,  
TETSU...

Tripped  
over his  
words

MUTTER



IT'S THE  
CAPTURED  
PRINCESS!



WHAT?!

WHAT  
GHOST?!

...BUT  
I HEARD  
A GHOST  
LIVES IN  
THE  
MANSION AT  
THE TOP OF  
THE HILL.  
... YOU STILL  
WANNA GO?



Tetsu's such  
a scaredy-  
cat, lolol

Classmates

What  
do I do?  
But if  
I run  
away  
now...



...D-DON'T  
TAKE THOSE  
RUMORS  
SERIOUSLY!

BESIDES,  
EVERYBODY  
KNOWS  
IT'S NOT A  
GHOST AT  
THE DEMON  
KING'S  
CASTLE!



## TRANSLATION NOTES



### Novel submission, page 8

Kumada-san has not made it big as an author yet, so she gets her stories out there by submitting them to publishing companies. In Japan, some publishers have regular competitions in which amateur authors can submit their writing. The best stories will be published, and the authors may be given a contract.

### Dust cloth for the new semester, page 19

In Japan, students are expected to help keep their classrooms clean, and not just by being considerate and not leaving trash on the floor—they are expected to sweep, dust, etc. The school provides most of the cleaning supplies, but students are asked to bring their own dust cloths.



### Pare down my wishes, page 38

In Japan, the rules for wishing on a shooting star are to repeat the wish three times while the star is still falling. If the wisher succeeds, the wish will come true. Here, it is unclear whether Shizu has a long list of wishes to pare down, or if the idea is to come up with the shortest way to recite one or two wishes.



### Harumichi? Isn't that...?, page 80

Tetsu is realizing that there are two things about Harumichi that defy his expectations. First, Harumichi is a masculine name. Second, what he really commented on in the Japanese text was Harumichi's choice of the first person pronoun. While English only has one variety of first-person singular pronouns, Japanese has a few different ones, chosen based on formality and even gender. Although women can use pronouns like the *ore* Harumichi uses here, the societal assumption is that anyone who calls themselves *ore* is male.

### Sōmen noodles in April, page 81

Sōmen is a noodle dish served with a light dipping sauce, usually eaten cold in the summer. Tetsu makes the out-of-season dish because he lacked ingredients to make anything else.



### Let's be friends, page 98

There's a ritual expression in Japanese that comes in varying levels of politeness, but its unabbreviated form is usually *yoroshiku onegai shimasu*, which translates roughly to, "I hope you treat me (or this endeavor) well." It can be used when meeting someone for the first time; when people are about to work on a project together; when someone is about to start working for someone; or even in a fighting game when characters are about to fight each

other. In this case, since the endeavor is one of friendship, it is translated as, "Let's be friends."



**Seven Mysteries, page 106**  
Also translated as “Seven Wonders” or “Seven Horrors,” the word *nana-fushigi* refers to the seven inexplicable occurrences that take place in one location. Many schools have their own set of them. They often refer to things such as a statue that moves, or mysterious noises in the hall at night believed to be the moaning of a spirit, etc.

### Inagawa-style talent for ghost stories, page 106

Junji Inagawa is a Japanese actor who has become famous for his excellent ghost stories narrations.



### Past lunch and into snack time, page 115

In Japan, the word for snack is *oyatsu*, which comes from *yatsudoki*, the eighth hour, which in modern times is between two and four o'clock.



### Slit-mouth woman, page 143

Slit-Mouth Woman, or *Kuchi-Saké Onna*, is an urban legend from Japan about a masked woman who will stop people on their way home and ask them if they think she's pretty. If her victims tell her she's not pretty, she'll kill them, but if they say she is, she will remove her mask to reveal a mouth that has been slit open from ear-to-ear and ask if they still think she's pretty. If they say yes, she'll slit their mouth to match hers.



Japan's most  
powerful spirit  
medium delves  
into the ghost  
world's greatest  
mysteries!

Story by Kyo  
Shirodaira, famed  
author of mystery  
fiction and creator of  
*Spiral*, *Blast of Tempest*,  
and *The Record of a  
Fallen Vampire*.



Both touched by spirits called yōkai, Kotoko and Kurō have gained unique superhuman powers. But to gain her powers Kotoko has given up an eye and a leg, and Kurō's personal life is in shambles. So when Kotoko suggests they team up to deal with renegades from the spirit world, Kurō doesn't have many other choices, but Kotoko might just have a few ulterior motives...

# IN/SPECTRE

**STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA**  
**ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE**

© Kyo Shirodaira/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.

"Parasyte fans should get a kick out of the chance to revisit Iwaaki's weird, violent, strangely affecting universe. Recommended." - Otaku USA Magazine

"A great anthology containing an excellent variety of genres and styles." - Manga Bookshelf

Based on the critically acclaimed classic horror manga

The first new *Parasyte* manga in  
over 20 years!

# NEO PARASYTE

BY ASUMIKO NAKAMURA, EMA TOYAMA, MIKI RINNO, LALAKO KOJIMA, KAORI YUKI,  
BANKO KÜZE, YUUKI OBATA, KASHIO, YUI KURÖE, ASIA WATANABE, MIKIMAKI,  
HIKARU SURUGA, HAJIME SHINJO, RENJURO KINDAICHI, AND YURI NARUSHIMA

A collection of chilling new *Parasyte* stories from Japan's top shojo artists!

Parasites: shape-shifting aliens whose only purpose is to assimilate with and consume the human race... but do these monsters have a different side? A parasite becomes a prince to save his romance-obsessed female host from a dangerous stalker. Another hosts a cooking show, in which the real monsters are revealed. These and 13 more stories, from some of the greatest shojo manga artists alive today, together make up a chilling, funny, and entertaining tribute to one of manga's horror classics!

© Hitoshi Iwaaki, Asumiko Nakamura, Ema Toyama, Miki Rinno, Lalako Kojima, Kaori Yuki, Banko Kuze, Yuuki Obata, Kashio, Yui Kuroe, Asia Watanabe, Mikimaki, Hikaru Suruga, Hajime Shinjo, Renjuro Kindaichi, Yuri Narushima/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.





"I'm pleasantly surprised to find modern shojo using cross-dressing as a dramatic device to deliver social commentary... Recommended."

-Otaku USA  
Magazine



# The. prince in his dark days

By **Hico Yamanaka**

A drunkard for a father, a household of poverty... For 17-year-old Atsuko, misfortune is all she knows and believes in. Until one day, a chance encounter with Itaru—the wealthy heir of a huge corporation—changes everything. The two look identical, uncannily so. When Itaru curiously goes missing, Atsuko is roped into being his stand-in. There, in his shoes, Atsuko must parade like a prince in a palace. She encounters many new experiences, but at what cost...?

A new series from the creator of *Soul Eater*, the megahit manga and anime seen on Toonami!

"Fun and lively...  
a great start!"  
-Adventures in  
Poor Taste

# **FIRE FORCE**

By Atsushi Ohkubo

The city of Tokyo is plagued by a deadly phenomenon: spontaneous human combustion! Luckily, a special team is there to quench the inferno: The Fire Force! The fire soldiers at Special Fire Cathedral 8 are about to get a unique addition. Enter Shinra, a boy who possesses the power to run at the speed of a rocket, leaving behind the famous "devil's footprints" (and destroying his shoes in the process). Can Shinra and his colleagues discover the source of this strange epidemic before the city burns to ashes?

## **Wake Up, Sleeping Beauty 1**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Wake Up, Sleeping Beauty volume 1 copyright © 2015 Megumi Morino  
English translation copyright © 2017 Megumi Morino

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2015 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.  
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through  
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or  
by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,  
San Francisco.

[www.kodanshacomics.com](http://www.kodanshacomics.com)

ISBN: 9781682339978

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Alethea and Athena Nibley

Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

Editing: Haruko Hashimoto

Kodansha Comics Edition Cover Design: Phil Balsman

